

OUR EXPERTS · CATH KIDSTON · TILLY WALNES · MAY MARTIN

SEPT 2015
ISSUE 75 £5.99



sew

Style & Home

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4-22

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SMOCK**



*Patchwork
scrap buster
dolly*



Lisa Comfort Sewalong – Stitch a silky tie top



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Editor

Lorraine Luximon
lorraine.luximon@aceville.co.uk
01206 505420

Deputy Editor

Steph Durrant
stephanie.durrant@aceville.co.uk

Editorial Assistant

Carolyn Kirkpatrick
carolyn.kirkpatrick@aceville.co.uk

Group Editor

Lynn Martin
01206 505980

Publishing Director

Helen Tudor

Advertisement Sales

Clare Dance
clare.dance@aceville.co.uk
01206 505495

Sarah Collins

sarah.collins@mspublications.co.uk
01206 506255

Jackie Weddell

jackie.weddell@mspublications.co.uk
01206 506221

Jo Bluck

jo.bluck@aceville.co.uk
01206 506253

Art Director

Phil Dunham

Designers

Gemma Eales, Clare Brasier,
Jen Kessel & Hannah Barnett

Ad Production

Angela Scrivener

Photography

CLIQQ Photography www.cliqq.co.uk

Accounts

Denise Bubbs
01206 505958

Subscription Enquiries/

Back Issues
01795 592967

Website Enquiries

webmaster@sewmag.co.uk

Newtrade Sales

Marketforce 0203 148 3300

Marketing Manager

Andrea Turner

Subscriptions Executive

Fiona Burrows
fiona.burrows@aceville.co.uk

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We love vintage!



We adore things with a little history here

at Sew HQ, and this month we've got a lovely selection of garments to create influenced by days gone by. From a 1920s silky tie top, made to your own measurements from fellow retro fan Lisa Comfort (p20), to our 1950s halterneck cover star, there's inspiration aplenty (p24).

This month your FREE pattern includes a gorgeous range of separates to stitch for work or weekend wear. With two types of blazer, a simple top, plus A-line skirt and trousers, the possibilities are endless. Make up in classic pinstripes or why not go bold and floral – the choice is yours (p11)!

We also have some lovely accessories with a modern twist, including a designer-alike Liberty watch (p46) and geometric clutch bag (p36). These pieces are sure to instantly update your existing wardrobe. This month we were also lucky enough to chat with the Cath Kidston team about their latest collection. This brand really is the home of modern vintage, so it does not disappoint! See p41.

Elsewhere we have the lowdown on the new patchwork and quilting trends, including wearable quilting and the new fabric prints (p55). There's also cute toys to stitch for the little ones – we're particularly taken with Walter the whale (p88)! We love to hear from you, so get in touch in one of the ways below.

Happy stitching!

Lorraine

Lorraine Luximon, Editor



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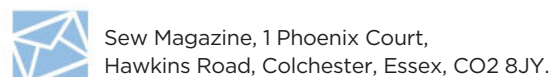
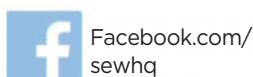
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September 2015

FREEBIES & OFFERS



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Tips and advice for using your FREE pattern pack.

18 50% off Simplicity 1459
A vintage inspired pattern to add to your wardrobe.

24 50% off Simplicity 1606
Make the Amazing Fit 1950s tea dress for instant summer style.

87 Half price book offer
Get a copy of a selected DK craft title at half price with our exclusive reader offer.



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SEW STYLE

34 pages of fashion, garments & more!

FREE THIS MONTH...



This month's FREE pattern has everything you need to create the perfect office to evening look. The mix and match elements will allow you to create your ideal outfit. The pattern includes an easy vest top plus an A-line skirt, tailored trousers and blazers.



11 The office to evening collection

Use your FREE gift to make an outfit that can take you from day to night with ease!

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Use Pistil stitch to make a cute purse.

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Make a pretty accessory in classic Liberty style.

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Sew tries out the Tilly and the Buttons course.

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FREE NEXT MONTH
New Look 6302 dress and jacket combo



Want it now!

Things we're coveting in the world of stitching this month

DIY ESPADRILLES

Espadrilles are the perfect summer shoe and loved by fashionistas like Alexa Chung and Jennifer Lawrence. But if you don't fancy the Chanel price tag, why not stitch your own with ease with a little help from creative brand, Prym, which offers a variety of packs including a pair of soles, a basic pattern in a range of sizes and an instructional DVD at

www.prym-consumer.com? You can also pop along to

The Makery blog for a free tutorial by owner Kate Smith on stitching these must-haves, or take a workshop at the Bath-based shop. Visit

www.themakery.co.uk for more details.

Get the
Alexa
look!

Jonathan Hordle/REX



love it!



SEW CAROLINE

SUGAR POP TOP, \$14

With a Peter Pan collar, flutter or cap sleeves, and a subtle high-low hem, this pretty everyday top looks great stitched in fabric from her Gleeful range for Art Gallery Fabrics. Available in sizes XS-XXL, www.shopsewcaroline.com



LUCKY DIP

Decision making not your strong point? Indecisive stitchers can now take modern needlework company Floss & Mischief's lucky dip challenge. If you can't choose between designer-maker Genevieve Brading's taxidermy-inspired cross stitch bugs or boho-style feather kits, simply opt for a surprise project and you won't know which of the 14 designs you'll receive until it arrives. Plus, to reward your bravery, you'll get a bonus 30% off the price. Visit www.flossandmischief.com

get the look!

These high-waisted leggings by Under the Same Sun are made from recycled plastic bottles and are sure to appeal to yoga lovers and eco conscious stitchers alike. We adore the vibrant on-trend Ikat print. You can stitch your own with this digital pattern by Fehr Trade. There's a hidden pocket inside the upper centre back, contrast panels behind the knees for adding mesh fabric, and an elasticated, high-rise waistband. Available in sizes XXS-XL, visit www.fehrtrade.com



hot
on the
high
street

"Stitch your own
active wear using
stretch fabrics"

DIARY DATES

3rd-6th September
**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
CENTENNIAL FAIR**

Harrogate International
Centre

4th-6th September
**GREAT NORTHERN QUILT
& NEEDLECRAFT SHOW**

Great Yorkshire
Showground, Harrogate

10th-12th
September
**STITCHING, SEWING &
HOBBYCRAFTS SHOW**

EventCity, Manchester

26th-27th
September
THE BIG TEXTILE SHOW

Leicester Grammar School

CUSTOM MADE

Handmade in East London, these fun designs by women's clothing brand Queenie and Ted (friends Linda Gray and Kally Laurence) caught our eye this month. Simply select a style of garment and your choice of fabric, then pick an embellishment to make your skirt or dress unique to you, including contemporary appliqué and embroidery designs. Want to stitch your own? Motif and craft packs are also available priced from £8.50. View the range at www.queenieandted.co.uk



TAILORED TRADITION

The British institution of exquisite tailoring has captured the imagination of stitchers more than ever in recent years thanks to the *Sewing Bee*. Tailored: A Very British Fashion is a unique exhibition at Leeds City Museum celebrating its heritage from the eighteenth century to today. Savile Row tailor, Kathryn Sargent has crafted a bespoke suit for display and the exhibit includes Ringo Starr's jacket on loan from the V&A. Running until 3rd January, find out more at www.leeds.gov.uk





What you're saying...

Share your crafty makes and stories with us to be in with the chance of winning a fantastic prize!



picks

www.pinterest.com/sewhq

What we're pinning right now!



www.etsy.com



www.vixenvintage.blogspot.com



www.roxannequilts.com

Sew Issue 66



"It's so good to hear from you"

Carolyn Kirkpatrick
Editorial Assistant



"I knew my friend would appreciate something handmade"

I made the fox cushion that I saw in the January issue. I decided to present it as a gift for my friend Paula's 60th birthday. She was amazed that I wanted to give it away, but absolutely loved it! Her surname is Fox, so it seemed really appropriate. She is also an avid knitter and card maker, so I knew she would appreciate something handmade. There are a lot of prints and accessories around this season featuring foxes, but I mainly used leftover fabrics that I had in my stash. I enjoyed the project so much that I have bought fabric to make the hedgehog cushion for my three year old granddaughter.

Lisa King

What a lovely gift, Lisa. We can't wait to see the hedgehog version.

"I am still a child at heart"

Thanks to *Sew* and *The Great British Sewing Bee* I've been inspired to learn how to sew. I have made a few garments but, as I am still a child at heart, what I enjoy most is stitching fairy dolls. I have created my own original design, and I plan to make one for each of the flowers I love most. So far two down, quite a few more to go! This is the fuchsia fairy.

Katia Galante

This is so pretty, Katia, and such a unique design.



"I spent my days off hand sewing in the garden"

With a week off work and the wedding of my two friends approaching, I decided it was time to get sewing to make myself an outfit. With some great help from my local shop I chose a beautiful lilac fabric, and used the pattern I got free with *Sew* issue 65. This was the first time I had ever made pleats and I'm so pleased with how it turned out. I spent my holiday hand sewing the hem in the garden, just in time for the wedding! Luckily the weather was absolutely beautiful, as was the bride. I'm so happy my dress looked so good. Thanks for the pattern, I shall definitely be using it again.

Emma Freeman

Sewing in the garden and supporting your local fabric store? It's the perfect combination!



WIN this bumper selection of fabrics!

This month our Star Letter winner will receive a bumper selection of fabrics from Minerva Crafts worth £50. We also have £10 worth for the runners up. For more stitching goodies, visit www.minervacrafts.com



Show & Tell

Share your latest stitchy triumphs with **sew!**

Star Letter

"Your patterns have really helped me upskill"



I really enjoyed making the New Look 6184 dress pattern from your April issue, using a denim-like yellow cotton. I feel particularly proud as I added sleeves, it's the first time I have ever hacked a pattern. I wore it to my local community festival last week and received so many compliments. I felt completely comfortable in it as it fitted me, and the occasion, perfectly. Your patterns have really really helped me upskill. Next I'll make the Georgia blouse from the July issue, with Liberty fabric. I picked up my first copy of Sew at the station at the beginning of a long journey from London to Scotland. I'm very happy to have found you!

Amber Alferoff

This is a stunning dress, we love the colour. Beautiful work, Amber.

Join team **sew!**

Want to share a nifty trick or piece of advice with your fellow stitchers? Join in the fun by sending your comments, tips and a photo of yourself to **carolyn.kirkpatrick@aceville.co.uk**

THIS MONTH'S READERS



Steph Brasier

Gives us advice on stowing our stitchy stash on page 70.



Carolyn Eales

Talks about using oilcloth on page 82.



Jenny O'Neill

Reveals her top dressmaking tip on page 24.



Charlotte Jessica Blakey

I made this unique wall art from upcycled clothing!



Carrie Davies-Bateman

This hobby horse is the result of using up all my odd socks.



@AiryFairyH

@SewHQ Here's a quilt that I made for my niece.



@SarahVonSew

@SewHQ For Father's Day I upcycled my husband's old football shirt into a top for our little girl! She loves it!



Stephanie Marsh

I made a rain mac with coordinating bandana for my dog, Sally.

Get in touch Write in and share your creations, tips and views



carolyn.kirkpatrick@aceville.co.uk



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Image: Michala Gyetvai

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PONY

GROVES

34 Pages of dressmaking

Including

Your **FREE**
PATTERN

NEWLOOK 6035

*The Office To Evening
Collection*

DRESS TO TUNIC REWORK



MADE FOR YOU TIE TOP



*“This
pattern can
take you
from day to
wow-wear”*



Work it... **NEWLOOK 6035**

5 great garments!

Your **FREE New Look 6035 pattern** is a complete wardrobe pack including mix and match elements for your ideal outfit.

The pattern includes an easy vest top with gathered neckline detail, plus an A-line skirt and tailored trousers, both with a side zip fastening. Finish the look with a blazer in two styles, featuring contrasting cuffs and patch pockets.



Make in tonal shades for the office



Sew an outfit that works for you!

A&B



Style A&B – blazer options

- Stitch a classic blazer for office attire.
- Patch pockets and contrast cuffs create an on-trend look.

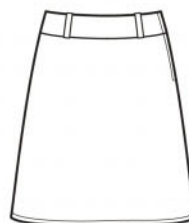
C



Style C – simple top

- A bound neckline and armholes mean no tricky facings.
- Add a pretty gathered detail to the front neckline.

D



Style D – A-line skirt

- The A-line shape flatters most figure types.
- Make up in casual linen or a printed poplin.

E



Style E – tailored look

- These smart trousers offer a straight style with belt loops.
- A side zip creates a flattering smooth appearance at the front of the garment.

YOUR STYLE OPTIONS

**Go bold for
a weekend
or after
hours look**



Jeans, models own, necklace, £7.99, New Look

“Collars are the finishing touch to a neckline”

Dressmaking guru Wendy Gardiner shares her tips on creating crisp collars

Anatomy of a collar

A collar has three layers: the top layer, called the collar or upper collar, the bottom section, named the under collar or facing, and the interfacing in between. Some collars are made in one piece, where the under collar is an extension of the upper collar, so the outer edge is a fold rather than a seam.

Added support

In most cases, the interfacing is fused to the upper collar so that it acts as a cushion against all of the seam allowances. To reduce bulk, trim away 1.3cm from around the edges of the interfacing before applying it to the wrong side of the upper collar sections.

Stitching together

With the fabric pieces right sides together, start sewing at the centre back and work towards one front edge. Start at the centre back again to stitch the other side of the collar. At corners or sharp curves, use a smaller stitch for 2.5cm either side. For very sharp corners, take one stitch diagonally across the point.

Trimming and grading

This is an important step to ensure a professional looking, crisp collar. Grade the seam allowances by cutting the under collar allowance to 3mm and the upper one to 6mm. Notch curved collars by taking little wedge shapes out of the seam allowance and cut corners at an angle close to the stitching.

Pressed to perfection

Before turning the collar out, iron on both sides. Then press the seam allowances open with the under collar side facing up. Turn through using a point turner. Press the collar again.

Creating perfect collars

Tefal GV7555
steam generator
iron, £199.95, www.johnlewis.com



Always press well

*Use good quality
interfacing*



Vilene lightweight interfacing, email crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk or call 01453 883581 for stockists.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

*Make small,
precise snips*



Fiskars curved
embroidery scissors,
£12.50, www.sewessential.co.uk

Bamboo point
turner, £1.50,
www.simplicitynewlook.com

*Turn out corners
with ease*





HOW I MADE IT

Dressmaker Vie Millard tries out New Look 6035

- Beginners may want to experiment with cutting and fitting the collar of the jacket before using expensive fabric. Transfer all markings clearly to the fabric from the pattern pieces, in order to construct the collar. Large and small dots can be identified by using different coloured tacking threads.
- Don't pull the belt carriers on the skirt too tight when joining the waist facing. Interface the top layer of the facing when using lighter fabrics
- Create different looks by trimming and decorating the hem line with purchased trim or machine embroidery.

DESK TO DINNER

VAMP IT UP FOR AN EVENING LOOK



Clutch bag, £29.50, Marks & Spencer



Pink beaded necklace, £10, Allusions at BHS



Carlton London Kyna court shoes, £34.99, Stylistpick



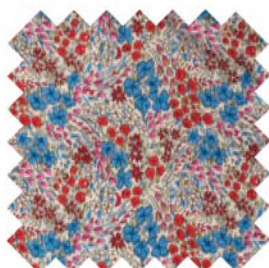
Necklace, £25, Autograph at M&S

the haberdashery



Cotton sateen

A bold print like this Jardin stretch cotton sateen in Magenta is sure to turn heads. Priced £12.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com



Ditsy lawn

Stitch your top in a light and floaty cotton lawn, like this one priced £13.99 from www.minervacrafts.com



Plain cotton

We chose a plain stretch cotton in Cerise which has a slight sateen finish. Priced £7.99 per metre, www.minervacrafts.com

**Your go-to
weekend top**

Behind the scenes



*Stylist Boo
eliminates
creases out
of shot*



Jeans, models own, necklace, £8.50, Freedom at Topshop

**PATTERN
HACK:**

*Extend
the skirt
length if
desired*



NEED AN ALTERNATIVE SIZE?

If you like New Look 6035 and want something in a fuller figure size range, take a look at Simplicity 1430 in sizes 14-22. You can purchase it for the special price of £4.05 (RRP £8.15) plus 85p postage by quoting SEW1430R5 at www.simplicitynewlook.com upon checkout. Offer available from 31st July until 28th August 2015.



**NEXT
MONTH'S
FREE
PATTERN**

Create a versatile outfit with your **FREE** New Look 6302 pattern. This easy shift dress and bomber jacket is super stylish.
On sale 28th August



Sewing Bee judge May Martin shares her dressmaking secrets

Celebrate your size and sculpt your body by sewing great fitting garments that flatter your curves. The journey to a fabulous fit and finish is achieved through pressing along the way. Unpressed seams look messy and lack finesse, which can spoil the finish of a garment and how it hangs on the body. Always press as you sew and on the wrong side of the fabric if possible. The garment will have a smoother, crisper final finish.

Top pressing tools

There are several pressing aids that will help you deal effortlessly with those straight or shaped seams. A tailor's ham is one of my favourite pieces. It fits snugly into the curve at the bust of a princess seam or under the shaping created by a dart. Also try a seam roll, which slides under a seam and because you are pressing on a tube, the seam allowance does not make an impression on the right side of the garment. Either buy one or make your own. Do this by taking a cardboard tube from the inside of a fabric roll and cut to the length required. Wrap with a length of cotton interlining or towelling, then cover with a piece of cotton fabric. A piece of muslin can either be used dry to protect your garment while pressing, or wet to introduce moisture to steam fabric or seams.

Be patient

Taking care during construction of your garment will ultimately save time and frustration at the end of the creative process. Pressing a seam that is trapped either end in other seams is tricky. Also, invest in a chair with wheels. Lower your ironing board and move from sewing machine to board without standing up. The ironing board becomes another work surface and pressing will not seem such a chore!

*Until next month,
May Martin*

For more dressmaking advice, pick up *May Martin's Sewing Bible: 40 Years of Tips and Tricks* (£25, HarperCollins).



Pattern

Exclusive style advice

PLUS SIZE PATTERNS FOR

Stylish co-ords

Make three styles of boat neckline top, and a skirt or trousers in matching fabric for a streamlined look. The narrow trousers elongate legs and look great on any figure.



Simplicity 1466
Sizes 10-28

FORM
FITTING
PRINCESS
SEAMS



Why not try?

Simplicity 1363
Sizes XXS-XXL
THREE SLEEVES
VARIATIONS

Picks

with May Martin

EVERY FIGURE

Panel dresses

This Amazing Fit dress comes with pattern pieces for slim, average and curvy fit, and B, C, D and DD cup sizes.

Princess seaming elongates the body and the A-line shape will skim hips.



Simplicity 1458
Sizes 10-28

CREATE
CONTOURS
WITH A
PANELLED
BODICE

Best of the rest

Colette Patterns
Hawthorn Dress
Sizes 0-18
SIMPLE BUTTON
UP FRONT



Wardrobe pack pattern

The 'V' neck and under bust seaming draws the eye to one of the slimmest parts of the body. Soft folds of fabric flatter full hips or a round tummy. Team with knit leggings and a cropped jacket.



Simplicity 1376
Sizes 10-28

THREE
FLOATY DRESS
STYLES

STOCKIST INFORMATION
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For Colette Patterns, visit
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You may also like

Simplicity 1659
Sizes 10-28
DAY TO
EVENING
STYLES



Simplicity®

STYLE SCHOOL

Choose a modern rework of a vintage pattern

Vintage is undeniably a big trend right now. Simplicity has a range of vintage-inspired patterns based on original designs from the decades, but resized to suit modern figures and sizing. And of course, include printed tissue pieces, clearly marked with notches, darts, button and zip placement lines to make construction that much easier!



Pattern of the Month

Simplicity 1459 is a darling vintage dress style with buttoned bodice, wide collar and a choice of sleeve options. It can be worn with bow belt, or dressed up with a cummerbund. Based on an original 1950s pattern, if you're in love with retro style, get this on your make list right away! **£8.15**

50% OFF

Buy Simplicity 1459 for the special price of just £4.05 plus 85p P&P (rrp £8.15) from www.simplicitynewlook.com and quote SEW1459. Offer valid 31st July to 28th August 2015.



A VINTAGE CLASSIC

"Add an underskirt for full-on glamour"

Just two pattern pieces

If you prefer the simpler silhouettes of the 1960s, this shift dress shouts swinging sixties. A classic shape, Jiffy 1252 features two main pattern pieces for a simple to sew garment. It's totally versatile too, wear with a polo neck come autumn and opt for a lighter weight fabric for summer. **£8.15**



THE '60s SHIFT

Casual elegance

Head back to the 1950s with Simplicity 1166. This versatile pack includes a full skirt and blouse with button details. Tie at the front for casual chic, and if you fancy, stitch up the bra top too! **£8.15**



RIVERIA STYLE

Shop more great patterns at www.simplicitynewlook.com

Space to create

With an extra-large 210mm (8.3") of working space to the right of the needle any quilting or large sewing project can be handled easily.

Our Square Feed Drive System (SFDS) ensures smooth uniform handling on all types of fabric. Packed with useful features and a huge variety of stitches, Brother's new long-arm range is the ideal choice.

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Includes an extra large wide table, 232 stitches as well as our ICAPs system to ensure uniform stitching across varying fabric thicknesses, and the useful pivot function allowing the fabric to be turned while the needle is down





LEARN WITH...

Lisa Comfort

'MADE FOR YOU' TIE TOP

This 1920s-inspired drop waisted top is easy to stitch and is made to your own measurements. First, create a bodice block to fit your shape using the instructions at www.sewmag.co.uk, then adapt it to create a loose-fitting style. The fabric needs to be lightweight and drapey – try a silk for an evening look paired with capri trousers and a pair of heels.

Dimensions

Custom sized
Use a 1.5cm
seam allowance,
except for the
neckline which
is 1cm.

1 Visit www.sewmag.co.uk to download the bodice block instructions and diagrams included in the issue 75 template pack. Use these to draft a basic bodice pattern to your measurements. Once you have done this, alter it in the following way to create the tie top pattern.

2 If you want to lower the neckline, lower point J. Or make it wider by moving K towards B. Add 10cm to the length of line JC, creating point L. Square across from L and extend line BH to meet this, creating point M. Check that line LM is at least 1cm longer than the top hip measurement (10cm below your waist) divided by four. If it isn't, extend line LM from point M until it is. BH will create your armhole, eliminating the underarm curve for a slightly looser fit. H must be marked with a notch so you know where the armhole starts.

3 If E on your block is wider than B, square across from L, in a parallel line to CE that is also the same distance, plus 2.5cm, creating point M. Join M to B in a diagonal line. Make sure point G is transferred onto new line MB and mark it with a notch. Add a 1.5cm seam allowance to all the edges, except the neckline and fold line where you add 1cm. Draw a fold line between J and C, and the grain line position vertically.

4 To make the band block, divide your top hip measurement by two and add 1cm. Draw a horizontal line that is this measurement; this will be line AB. Mark the centre of this line C. Square down 11cm from C, and label point F. Take your lower hip measurement (11cm below your top hip point) and divide by four and add 5mm.

5 Starting from F, measure out this distance to the left, then to the right of F and draw a parallel line to AB. Label the points E and D respectively. Join up D to A, and E to B. Add a 1.5cm seam allowance to all edges. Mark the shorter edge 'top'. Draw a grainline perpendicular to the two long edges.

6 For the ties, take your top hip measurement and multiply by 1.7. Use this measurement to draw a horizontal line – this will be AB. From A, square down by 10cm (width of band minus 1cm), creating line AC. From B, measure back 60cm along line AB creating point E. Square down 10cm from E, creating point D. Join C to D in a line parallel to line AB. Then from D, draw a gently curved line that meets point B. Add a 1.5cm seam allowance to all edges. Label line AB 'top'.

7 Cut two bodice pieces on the fold, one pair of bands and two pairs of ties from 140cm wide fabric. Gather the bottom edge of the front

and back bodices. Pull the gathers to half of your top hip measurement, then tie a knot in the thread ends. Evenly distribute the gathers [1].

8 Place the top edge of the band right sides together with the gathered edge of the bodice. Pin and stitch in place. Overlock or zig zag the seams and press up towards the bodice. Repeat with the back band and bodice [2].

9 Place one pair of ties right sides together, pin and stitch down the long edges, keeping the short, straight edge open. Trim down the seam allowance and cut off the point. Turn out [3]. Press flat and tease the point using a pin. Repeat with the other pair of ties.

10 Pin the ties to the front band, aligning the raw edges. The top of the tie (straight edge) should sit right up to the seam with the bodice. This leaves 1cm of the band extending out. Machine tack in place at 1cm [4].

11 Place the front and back bodice right sides together. Pin the side seams from the armhole notch H (or G for the exception) to the hem, sandwiching the ties. Align the seams and edges. Pin in place and stitch. Overlock or zig zag the seams together, and press towards the back [5].

12 Align the shoulder seams, right sides together. Pin and stitch. Overlock or zig zag

the seams together and press towards the back. At the armholes, working from the wrong side, press over 7mm, then a further 8mm, clipping into the notch to allow the hem to sit flat. Edgestitch down. Overlock or zig zag the bottom of the band. Press over the remaining seam allowance and stitch in place.

13 Measure the neckline on the bodice pattern (without seam allowances) and multiply by four. Cut a strip of fabric on the bias, measuring 3cm wide and as long as the neckline you just calculated, plus 2cm. Join the ends right sides together. Trim down the seam allowance and press open.

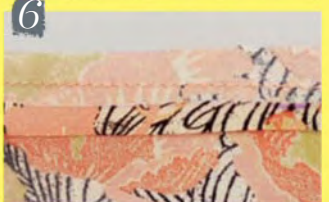
14 Fold over 1cm along one edge of the bias strip. Press in place. Pin the unfolded edge of the bias strip right sides together with the neckline, lining up the seam on the bias with one of the shoulder seams. Stitch with a 1cm seam allowance [6]. Trim to 5mm. Press the seam allowance up towards the bias strip and understitch. Tuck the bias tape inside the neckline, rolling the top edge of the neckline so that you cannot see it. Press again and pin. Edgestitch the strip down to the neckline and press.



get
the
book



For more vintage-inspired patterns, see *Sew Over It Vintage* by Lisa Comfort (£15, Ebury Press).
www.eburypublishing.co.uk



next
month...

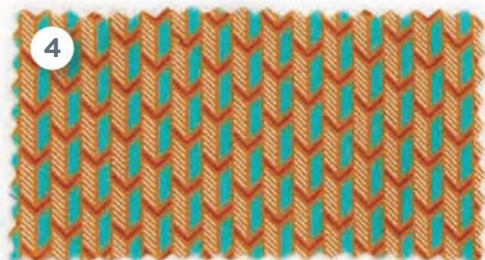
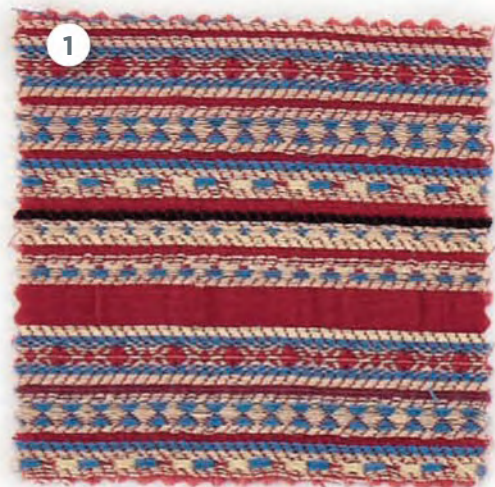
Lisa Comfort's easy jersey dress how-to.



love that FABRIC *Native American*

*“Take the look further
by adorning your
garments with woven
trims, feathers
and tassels”*

Steph Durrant, Sew Deputy Editor



FABRIC SHOPPING

1 Stripe Jacquard fabric, £9.99 per metre, www.remnantkings.co.uk, 0141 418 0333.

2 Dreams of Kandace, Etno by Art Gallery Fabrics, £12.80 per metre, www.misformake.co.uk

3 Camel Blanket, Hapi by Amy Butler, £18.95 per metre, www.myfabrics.co.uk, 0203 326 5482.

4 Indian Fever in Ochre combed cotton, £9.98 per metre, www.fabricrehab.co.uk

5 Mojave Aloe, Morning Walk by Art Gallery Fabrics, £12.80 per metre, www.misformake.co.uk

6 Decorative tassel in Yellow/Multi, £3.45 each, www.bedecked.co.uk, 01544 350577.

7 Spirit Animal in Indigo, £16 per metre, www.misformake.co.uk

8 Woven ribbon Navajo 4 in Grey, 69p per metre, www.myfabrics.co.uk, 0203 326 5482.

9 Cream Feathers flannel, £13 per metre, www.sewhot.co.uk, 0330 111 3690.

Annual Dress Making Competition

To celebrate our 70th Birthday our annual dress competition has taken on a retro theme.

The Challenge:

Using a gorgeous Butterick Fast & Easy Retro pattern we want you to make the classic Walkaway Dress.

What you need to do:

Working to the pattern, using the fabric provided in the pack, we want you to make the Walkaway Dress to a UK size 12. Choose your own bias and buttons to create the finish you want and use your creativity to add any embellishments to the dress. Use your imagination and go wild!

The entry pack:

The competition pack contains the Butterick Pattern and 4.5m of fabric, worth £28.00 for our special entry price of **£17.99**. (If you don't want to enter the competition but just want to take advantage of this special rate and make the dress you can do that too!)

How to enter:

Or to simply buy the pack you can call the shop on 0161 707 7786 or visit our website www.bambersew.com

Competition dates:

Opening date 1st September 2015
Closing date 9th March 2016
Judging date 16th March 2016
Winners show 30th March 2016

What you can win:

1st Prize Bernina 330 worth £649.00
2nd Prize £100 worth of Vogue Pattern vouchers
3rd Prize £50 worth of Vogue Pattern vouchers

The judges:

We are pleased to announce this years judges will be Sew Magazine Editor *Lorraine Luximon* and Couture Expert and well known lecturer *Lorna Knight*.



BAMBER
SEWING MACHINE CENTRE

The Walkaway Dress

The perennially popular 1952 pattern Retro Butterick 4790 caused quite a stir when it was originally released. Sales were so great, that at one point Butterick ceased Manufacture of all other patterns until the back-orders for this design could be filled.

The style was christened the walkaway dress, because it was so easy you could "Start it after breakfast... and walk-away in it for luncheon!" Its simple flattering wrap design and easy construction are what makes the dress so enduringly popular.



Birthday Events 2016

As well as our dress competition we are running a series of events and promotions throughout the year:

Brother Embroidery Classes ~ Throughout June
Mini Sewing Bee ~ £5 entry ~ 7th September
Afternoon Tea ~ for past and ~ present staff 28th September
Quilters Christmas Gift Classes ~ Throughout November

For more details and to book places keep an eye on our Facebook and website.

Bamber Sewing Machines would like to thank our kind suppliers for help with our competition. Butterick for the patterns and Oodles for the fabric.

Pattern on test

Simplicity® 1606

We put this Amazing Fit 1950s-style tea dress pattern through its paces

This Amazing Fit pattern emulates a vintage look by adding a big petticoat and creating a boned bodice. Create your own style from three options available. All have princess seams for a flattering fit and a full circle skirt. The pack includes separate pattern pieces for different cup sizes as well as fitting tips, making it even easier to fit as you sew.



What is an Amazing Fit pattern?

Simplicity expert Wendy Gardiner explains what makes an Amazing Fit pattern, so very amazing!

Fit as you sew

The idea behind Amazing Fit designs is that you can fit as you sew. The very first step is to take accurate measurements of your bust, high bust, waist and hip. Fill in the chart on the instruction sheet and then check the difference in measurement between high bust and bust to determine which cup size you need. Just as pattern sizes are not the same as high street sizes, nor is the cup size necessarily the same bra size you wear, so it is important to check these measurements. Once you know which bodice piece to cut out, you are ready to go.

Adjustments made easy

Once all the pieces are cut out and any pattern markings transferred, tack the garment sections together in order to try it on and check for fit. Any adjustments can then be made (there are step-by-step instructions to guide you) before the pieces are taken apart again, ready to sew together. It does take a bit longer to construct, but it means you can be confident that the fit is just right.

Special offer!

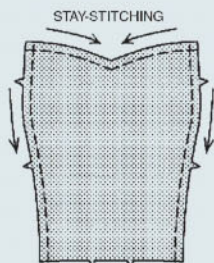
Order Simplicity 1606 for £4.05 plus 85p postage (RRP £8.15). Visit www.simplicitynewlook.com and enter code SEW1606 at the checkout. Offer valid 31st July to 28th August 2015.



BONING.. in simple steps!

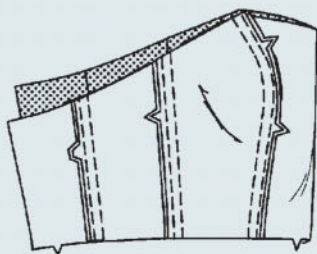
Staystitching the bodice

First, staystitch the centre front bodice piece to prevent it stretching as you work, then make up the bodice and press the seams to one side. Neaten the seam allowances. Attach halterneck straps to the bodice front. Make up the lining in the same way.



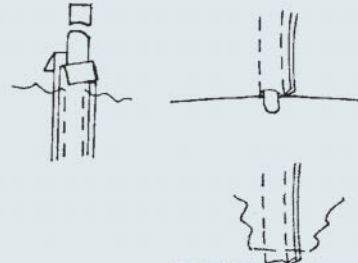
Making casings

To form the casings for the boning in the lining, stitch seam allowances together 1.3cm away from the seams. Cut strips of boning to the length of the stitched casing, excluding seam allowances at the top and bottom. Insert, then try it on.



Adding the boning

Cut off 6mm from either end, rounding the ends or adding end caps. Reinsert into the casings. Tack 1.5cm from the upper and lower edges, taking care not to catch the boning. Continue making up the dress as instructed in the pattern envelope.



Available
in sizes 4-22

*“Boning is
the secret of a
great fitting
dress”*

The bodice of this dress is supported by boning which is added to the lines of the princess seams at the front and back, to help keep the dress in place. The most common type is nylon boning which is inserted into casings. You can also buy polyester boning which can be sewn through, and metal boning which might be straight or spiral. This is used for corsets, bridalwear and generally heavier garments that need greater support.

the haberdashery



Floral print

We made version A, the halterneck style, in a chintzy cotton from the Summer Loft collection by Gütermann. Priced £11.99 per metre, www.beadandbuttoncompany.co.uk



Shop boning

Create structured support with Rigiband boning, 60p per metre, www.abakhan.co.uk

Sew reader
Jenny says...



*“Make your iron your
best friend. Iron as
you go, every dart,
seam, tuck and pleat!”*

Jenny O'Neil

**Add a tiered
net petticoat
to recreate the
retro 1950s look**



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Measure	cm
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Back Centre Length	41.9
Front Full Length	44.3
Back Full Length	43.8
Front Shoulder	14.0
Back Shoulder	14.0
Bust Level	10.1
Bust Span	10.1
Side Length	10.1
Shoulder Length	10.1
Front Across Shoulder	38.3
Back Across Shoulder	38.3
Bust Arc	10.1
Back Arc	10.1
Front Waist	10.1
Back Waist	10.1
Front Darts	10.1
Back Darts	10.1
Front Skirt	10.1

Measure
up

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from templates

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own pieces

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Lauren Guthrie

“I love looking to the past for inspiration when garment making”

As you get more confident at making your own handmade wardrobe, it pretty much means you can stitch your own fashion. If you love the full circle skirts and fitted bodices of the '50s you can go for it, or if a '70s mini shift dress is more your thing then you can make and wear that too – pretty much anything goes.

Although wearing genuine vintage clothes isn't something that I usually do, I love looking to the past for inspiration, especially the construction techniques that were used in days gone by. Before overlockers and sewing machines with fancy edge stitching were commonplace, there were lots of techniques used to get a really neat professional finish on garments.

I'm a bit fussy when it comes to the inside of my handmade clothes and before I had an overlocker I used to spend ages doing extra techniques to neatly finish off my seam allowance. Hong Kong or bias bound edges are really fun as it means you can add a bit of contrast colour or pattern on the inside. Simply press ready-made bias tape in half and sandwich it around the raw edge of your seam allowance and topstitch in place.

Alternatively, you could edge stitch the seam allowances, which just means folding them under and topstitching the fold in place, just be careful not to accidentally sew your main garment, and only the seam allowance so that it's not visible from the outside.

French seams are another favourite of mine and work really well on lightweight fabrics. You just have to concentrate to make sure you get the pieces around the right way. First stitch with the wrong sides facing, trim the seam allowance so it's very narrow, press the seam flat with right sides facing and stitch again – all your raw edges will be completely hidden.

Other beautiful, albeit time consuming, techniques that will give your garment a vintage flair are bound buttonholes, rouleau loops and buttons and hand stitched hems. I've made a little jacket that had



*Lauren talks
vintage finishing
methods and
must-have tools*



Have fun trying out traditional finishing techniques on your garments, such as French or Hong Kong seams.

i love

SIMPLICITY 1356,
WWW.SIMPLICITY
NEWLOOK.CO.UK

hand bound buttonholes and they were very satisfying to make. I know that machines usually come with hemming feet now, but I actually really enjoy sitting down on the sofa after making a skirt or dress and hand stitching. I find it really relaxing!

If you fancy having a go at a vintage-inspired garment, but aren't 'vintage sized', Simplicity has a lovely range of patterns that are re-editions from decades gone by. One of my favourites is Simplicity 1356, which is a Jiffy 1970s reversible wrap dress. It looks a bit similar to the hugely popular Walkaway Dress from this year's *Sewing Bee* as it's made from just three main pattern pieces and has no zips or snaps – it just wraps, perfect!

Happy Sewing!

Quick-fire Round

Top pressing tools?

A sleeve ironing board for a really neat professional finish. It makes it so much easier to get into awkward places.

Top gadget?

Prymn's silicone finger guards to avoid singed finger tips.

Dressmaking essential?

A tailor's ham, it's great for rounding out the point of a dart perfectly.

Lauren is supporting
Sew Saturday!
See p58 for details.

Visit www.guthrie-ghani.co.uk

Essentials

- Old dress
- Contrasting fabric
- Bias binding folder
- Shank buttons
- Coordinating sewing thread

Dimensions

Custom sized



Customise it!

dress to tunic rework

Transform a much loved garment and give it a new lease of life

We all have clothes that we love so much, but we can no longer fit in! But instead of throwing them out or replacing them, Amanda Walker shows us how to make them look like new again. Using simple steps and pretty bias binding, she turned a beautifully embroidered dress into a fashionable tunic. You will have a revamped look in no time.

rework a dress

1 Unpick and remove any sleeves and put them to one side. Cut the armholes slightly lower to make them larger and create more room across the bust. Fold the dress in half through the centre back to find the exact centre if there is no seam. Cut along this fold to open up the garment.

2 From a contrasting fabric, make a 4cm wide strip of bias binding by cutting at a 45° angle from the selvedge. Make the strip as long as the armholes of the garment. Use a bias binding folder to fold in and press the edges twice. Encase the raw edge of the armhole inside the binding, and edge stitch all the way around. Repeat on the other side.

3 Cut a 3cm wide strip from fabric the length of the bottom of the garment. Neaten one long raw edge. Matching raw edges, stitch this along the base of the dress, right sides together, using a 1cm seam allowance, to create a new hem. You can alter the length of the garment by varying the width of the strip.

4 Cut two 8cm wide strips to the length of the centre back, plus 3cm. Neaten

one long raw edge. Lay one on top of the centre back edge, right sides facing, matching the raw edges. Ensure 1.5cm of the strip extends over each end of the dress fabric. Pin and stitch the two together with a 1cm seam allowance. Press the trim back, away from the dress, then fold it in half right sides facing and stitch down the excess fabric at each short end.

5 Trim the corners to reduce bulk, then turn the border out to the right side, pushing the corners into shape. The raw edge of the garment should lay inside the trim. Pin along the strip on the right side of the dress then secure by stitching the seam between the dress and the extra fabric on the right side of the garment. Repeat on the other centre back edge.

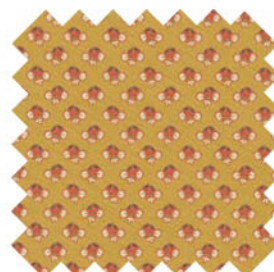
6 Use the sleeve fabric set aside to cover three shank buttons, and stitch them on the right-hand side of the new back centre edge. Create corresponding buttonholes on the left. The remainder of the centre back can be left open for a looser fit, or more buttons can be added to close the entire back of the top.

the haberdashery



Decorative buttons

Create your own embellishments. Priced £1.25, email crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk for stockists.



Rustic geometric

Choose a unique print to customise your garment. See www.hantex.co.uk/agf for stockists.

Try it yourself

Use up your stash of pretty trims or bias binding and breathe new life into a wardrobe favourite!



Q&A

Whatever your sewing problem, our experts have the answer!

Send your queries to stephanie.durrant@aceville.co.uk

When pattern matching, what seams should I concentrate on and how do I go about matching prints when cutting out?

Cheryl Curtis



Claire-Louise Hardie

trained as a costume designer and has been the sewing producer on all three series of the *Sewing Bee*. She also runs workshops at her sewing school The Thrifty Stitcher in Stoke Newington. www.thethriftystitcher.co.uk

Claire-Louise says

Unless you're making clothes or projects with straight lines, it's impossible to pattern match the full length of most seams that are curved. For example, a pencil skirt is very curved between the waist and hipline, so you won't be able to pattern match that area other than on the horizontal plane. However, you do want to match the pattern across this side seam from the hipline down to the hem.

“Think about whether the fabric has a very bold motif”

The first thing to think about when matching patterns is whether or not the pattern runs in one direction, if you're not sure, always follow the pattern layout for 'with nap' as this will ensure that the design runs from the top of each pattern piece towards the hemline. Next, think about whether the fabric has a very bold motif, like a flower, that runs in one direction from selvedge to selvedge. In this case, you need to cut each piece separately on a single layer of fabric, flipping the pattern over to mirror the shape of either side.

For most patterned dressmaking fabric, it's possible to cut the fabric as a double layer, making sure to identify the horizontal plane of the pattern, then using the seam notches to make sure this runs around the body matching across

Colette Patterns Dahlia Dress, £11.95, www.sewbox.co.uk



the seams. For skirts, I always check the horizontal plane is matched from below the hipline across the side seam and centre back seam. For tops and dresses, I ensure the pattern matches horizontally from below the bust dart (there's usually a notch here which will help you match up).

If your fabric has a bold motif, and you'd like to match the seams through the centre of that motif, you'll need to mark the stitching line, and place that onto the middle of the motif, rather than lining up the outside edge of your pattern. When doing this, I nearly always cut each piece singularly.

Another important consideration with patterned fabric is its placement. For example, you may want to avoid having a large flower sitting on either side of the bust! I always try and centre a vertical pattern on the centre front of my garments, as visually it looks a little odd if you position it on either side of the middle of the piece.

How do I preshrink fabric before sewing and can I predict how much it will shrink?

Claire Dixon



Elisalex De Castro Peake

is one third of the trio who set up indie pattern label By Hand London. Based in the Capital, she loves the technical side of sewing. Read more at www.byhandlondon.com

Elisalex says

Preshrinking or prewashing fabric is as easy as bundling it into the washing machine and running it through a quick 30°C cycle before getting stuck into your sewing project. When you buy fabric new, it won't have been washed in the same way that you would regularly launder your garments, so more often than not, and especially with natural fabrics such as cotton, linen and wool, the fibres will react by tightening up just a little when they go through their first wash. They will usually reduce by about 3%. In order to prevent the beautiful new dress you just made from shrinking, it is vitally important to wash your fabric before it becomes a piece of clothing! I've gotten into the habit of sticking everything in the washing machine the moment I get home from fabric shopping.

If you want to see how much your fabric will shrink, cut a square of cloth measuring 10cm square, run it through the washing machine, then measure it again after it has been washed. Please be aware, however, that certain fibres such as velvet and special silks should never be machine washed, but only ever dry cleaned, in which case, preshrinking is unnecessary.

“It is vitally important to wash your fabric before it becomes a piece of clothing”



I love the tailored look that's so fashionable. Are there any techniques that I could introduce into my everyday sewing?

Jamie Bailey

Ryan says

Firstly, tacking is so important. It may take longer than pinning, and not everybody enjoys hand sewing, but I think it can really help to make the construction of a garment more precise. For example, if you are sewing a welt or a jet pocket into a jacket. Because you are layering three or more fabrics, sometimes the ones in the middle can move slightly when you sew, even if they've been pinned. There have been so many times I wish I had tacked in stitching lines when the chalk lines I had drawn before have faded or smudged!

A really quick, simple way of tailoring shirts that you might have in your wardrobe or have previously made, is by taking in the side seams and the underarm seam. Simply pinch the fabric and measure the excess, lay the shirt on a flat surface and draw in a new stitching line. Sew and trim or overlock the excess fabric. Make sure, however, that you curve your new stitching line to the bottom of the cuff. I tend to do this a lot with shirts if I love the fabric but it isn't in my size. Sometimes I just have to have them because of a fab print!

Guest expert



Ryan Walklett

was the youngest contestant ever on *The Great British Sewing Bee* and studies Fashion Design Menswear at Central Saint Martins. Follow him on twitter [@ryan_walklett](https://twitter.com/ryan_walklett)

“There have been so many times I wish I had tacked in stitching lines”



Sew loves...

The Tank Dress by Sew Caroline is the perfect summer frock that you'll want to make over and over. A true summer staple, it will fit perfectly into your everyday life. With no darts and closures it's super simple to make too. Stitch it in cotton, voile, lawn, in fact it will look gorgeous sewn in anything!

Did you know?
Caroline also designs beautiful prints for Art Gallery Fabrics.

For stockists, visit www.hantex.co.uk/sewcaroline

iNDIE pattern news

*Summer dress patterns from
our fave independents*



SUMMER LOVING

We think Sylvie by Christine Haynes is quite possibly summer in dress form. Whether you choose the gathered dirndl or sassy pencil style skirt, you're sure to feel super girlie. Perfect for the dressmaker with a little experience, why not choose a snazzy border print or finished selvage like an eyelet fabric for a head-turning look?

Sylvie, £14.00
www.thevillagehaberdashery.co.uk



introducing...

THE BETTINE DRESS

New from Tilly and the Buttons, is the Bettine dress, which will see you through those long summer days in style. Ideal for beginners, the pattern is speedy to sew, with no fiddly fastenings or set-in sleeves. Make in a delicate floral viscose, or channel the utilitarian trend with a classic chambray.

Like all Tilly and the Buttons patterns, Bettine includes jargon-busting instructions and colour photos - making it easy for you to create gorgeous clothes you can be proud to say, 'I made it myself'!

Bettine, £12.50,
www.tillyandthebuttons.com

NEW PATTERN DOWNLOAD

Zeena from By Hand London is an infinitely versatile dress that will take you from daytime to party time without a hitch. With sweet little box pleats to cinch the waist and kimono sleeves, make like a lady with a knee length pleated skirt, or dare to bare and cut it short - but always keep things practical with side seam pockets!

Zeena, £9,
www.byhandlondon.com



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Prym Love – Super easy sewing fun!

The Prym Love collection with five colour schemes offers exclusive fabric designs and matching accessories to create colourful and cute models from head to toe.

Fabric mix packs with patterns and instructions as well as lovingly designed accessories offer a great diversity of combinations – from reversible skirt and t-shirt to the matching espadrilles.



Success every time.

Creative sewing has never been so easy!

Contact: nicholas.bralant@prym-consumer.com
www.prym-consumer.com



Essentials

- Cotton chambray, 70cm x 120cm
- Printed cotton, 20cm x 30cm
- Bias binding, 1.2cm wide, 150cm
- Button
- Coordinating embroidery thread
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Air-erasable pen

Dimensions

5 to 6 years

Chest: 60cm

Length (shoulder to hem): 55cm

Make it tonight!

painter's smock

Protect your little artist from getting mucky with our simple cover-up

If you have a budding Picasso or Monet in your midst, then this handy smock by the Belle and Boo team is the ideal make for keeping their clothes clean and paint free. Stitch with just a metre and a half of cotton chambray, add some patch pockets using sweet bunny print fabric, then let them unleash their creativity, safe in the knowledge you can just pop it in the wash when they're done.

stitch an apron

1 Download the pattern from www.sewmag.co.uk and print. Cut one front on the fold and two backs (one reversed) from cotton chambray, plus two pockets from printed cotton. Neaten each of the side and shoulder edges of the front and back pieces with a zig zag or overlocking stitch. Following the markings on the paper pattern and using an air-erasable pen, transfer the neck pleat lines and the positions of the two pockets onto the front piece.

2 Neaten the top edges of both pockets with a 1cm double hem. Press back a 1cm turning along the side and bottom edges of the pockets, then press back 1cm at each bottom corner [1]. Following the pocket position markings, pin them in place on the smock front. Tack, then machine stitch, 3mm from the folded edges [2].

3 Fold the left-hand pleat line inwards so that it lies along the centre pleat line. Pin it in place, then tack through all the layers, along the folds and neck edge to secure. Do the same with the right-hand pleat line to make a double pleat [3].

4 Place the two back smock pieces together, with right sides facing, matching up all the raw edges. Mark a point 20cm down from the neck, then pin the two pieces together between the marked point and the hem. Tack, then machine stitch, taking a 2cm seam allowance. Press the seam open, then press back a 2cm turning along both sides of the top opening [4].

5 Working from the right side, stitch down the left turning, 5mm from the inside edge. When you reach the end, turn the fabric 90° and sew 1cm across the seam. Reinforce the opening by sewing backwards, then forwards again, then sew down the right turning.

6 Trim 5mm off the top at each side of the neck edge to create a smooth curve. With the right sides facing, pin the front and back together at the shoulder and side edges. Machine stitch, taking a 1cm seam allowance, then press the seams open. Turn out.

7 Neaten the neck edge of the smock with bias binding. Leaving a 1cm overlap, open out one folded edge. Matching the raw edges, tack the binding all round the neck edge, stretching it slightly so that it fits comfortably around the curve. Trim the end, leaving a 1cm overlap. Stitch along the open fold line, then trim and tuck in the raw end. Turn the other edge of the tape over to the reverse and tack it down. Slip stitch along the folded edge, just inside the stitch line [5].

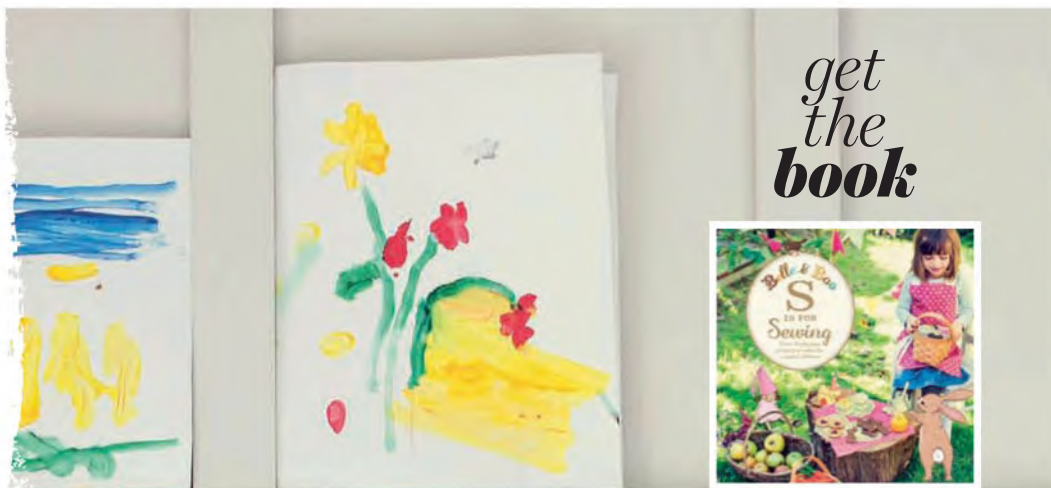
8 Open out one edge of the binding as for the neck and fold back a 1cm turning. Tack the fold in line with the underarm seam, then tack the binding all round the armhole edge, stretching it to fit. Trim the end, leaving a 1cm overlap. Machine stitch along the open fold

line, then turn the other edge of the binding over to the reverse and tack it down. Slip stitch along the folded edge. Repeat.

9 Make a hand stitched button loop on one side of the neck edge using three strands of embroidery thread. Make four fairly loose straight stitches as the foundation bar. Hold the needle under the bar and loop the thread behind it from left to right. Pull the needle through over the thread and gently pull the thread up and back to make a small 'purl' on the outside edge. Alternatively, make a machine stitched button loop. Sew a button securely on the opposite edge [6]. Finish the bottom edge with a 1cm double hem, stitching 3mm from the inside fold.

Need another size? Simply reduce or enlarge the pattern for a younger or older child





get
the
book



For further playtime projects, grab a copy of *Belle & Boo S is For Sewing* (£16.99, Quadrille). Illustrations by Mandy Sutcliffe. Projects by Lucinda Ganderton and Lisa Pendreigh, photography by Laura Edwards.
www.quadrille.com



the haberdashery



Boo print

This adorable Ditsy Boo screen printed poplin is perfect for the patch pockets on this art smock. Priced £19 per metre, visit www.belleandboo.com



Denim chambray

Cotton chambray is ideal for this sweet make, priced £12 per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk

Essentials

- Main fabric, 30cm x 50cm
- Contrast fabric, 30cm x 50cm
- Wadding, 30cm x 50cm
- Bias binding, 120cm
- Elastic cord, 10cm
- Large button

Dimensions

18cm x 24.5cm

quilted clutch bag

There's plenty of room for your essentials in this little-bit-fabulous clutch

This stylish geometric clutch bag could not be easier to stitch. And it's all about the fabric – choose a favourite print, then just lightly quilt around the design. Add an elastic loop buttonhole and all your contents will keep nice and safe wherever your travels take you!



extra support

To make the clutch more sturdy, back each fabric with a lightweight interfacing.



stitch a clutch bag

1 Place the backing fabric face down and 1 layer wadding and main fabric on top. Pin together. Machine stitch a series of parallel lines, 4cm apart bordering the design, from top to bottom. Sew a second set from side to side. Trim down to 25cm x 45cm, centring the pattern. Draw around a saucer in each top corner on the wrong side, then cut along the curves to make a flap **[1]**.

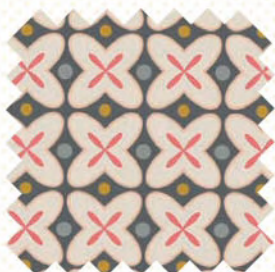
2 Neaten the short straight end with contrast bias binding. Fold up 17cm. Pin the side edges in place **[2]**, then tack together close to the edge. Fold 10cm of elastic in half and sew securely to the centre of the flap on the wrong side.

3 Bind the side edges and the flap. Sew a large button to the centre front, 4cm up from the bottom edge, ensuring the elastic fits round it **[3]**.



Blouse, £12.90, Uniglo, jeans, model's own

the haberdashery



Retro print

We used Make Stitches Candid from the Maker range by Art Gallery Fabrics. Visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf for stockists.



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Deborah Simms

“I love the line drawings on vintage dress patterns”

I have been having a wonderful time recently travelling up and down the country seeing friends and family. My husband and I have managed to visit London, Glasgow and Edinburgh, visiting flower shows, university friends and my previous craft group in Edinburgh. We even managed to sneak in a lunch with some of the Sewing Bees in Birmingham, with the lovely Lauren Guthrie allowing us to run riot in her shop for an afternoon. I am mentally calm, though a little physically exhausted!

My plans for the rest of the month are therefore to try and take it easy as much as possible. Whenever I think of ‘taking it easy’ my mind always goes to the more traditional crafts. I have been doing lots of patchwork for the nursery, including cushions and blankets for the little one. I was first introduced to English paper piecing by my partner’s mother and always go back to it when I need something to sew that is portable and doesn’t use a lot of brain power.

I have also been attempting to use up some of my fabric stash, and patchwork is the perfect way in which to do this. I often buy too much material for the project I’m currently making especially if I don’t have the pattern with me. Unfortunately, this leaves me with the predicament of having lots of leftover fabric. Of course I don’t want to just throw this fabric away, but the pieces are often too small to make garments from.

This has become more of an issue recently as we have converted my sewing room into a nursery. All of my hidden fabric has had to face the light of day, and it’s rather daunting to be honest. I think I’ll be able to hide some of it back in the nursery until our little one is older, but knowing that it is all there hangs over me and makes my brain feel unprepared to do any sewing.

Thankfully, I have begun to use up some of this fabric, beginning with a vintage Style 1156 pinafore pattern. I love the line drawings on vintage patterns, though I don’t often buy them for myself, and although I would describe my style as



Deborah on sewing vintage and using up her fabric stash

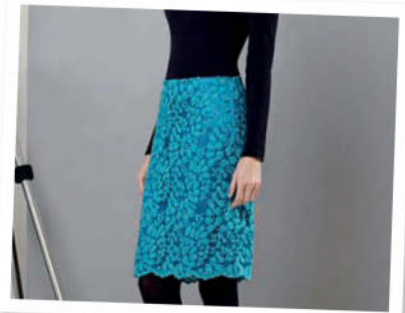


Try this

Deborah loves a vintage pattern. Why not try 1590 based on an original 1940s blouse pattern, £8.15, www.simplicitynewlook.com

including vintage elements, I have a very limited selection of them. Perhaps it is because I don’t carry my measurements with me. A lot of vintage patterns are not multi-sized (they only contain one dress size) so if you don’t know your own measurements when you’re out and about, it’s hard to be confident that you have bought the right one. Although I may be a master at the overlapping of patterns, I’ve never tried grading up or down a size.

Luckily, when looking at the sizing of the pattern, it was only out by a small margin across the bust. Therefore I split the difference of this increase and added it to all affected areas. As my fabric already had some stretch, I knew I should be able to get away with the skirt. I love this pinafore, and hope that it won’t be the last truly vintage pattern I have a go at. This means that I have succeeded in my #vintagepledge, to complete one item of clothing from a vintage pattern this year! The Vintage Sewing Pattern Pledge is being hosted by www.astitchingodyssey.com and www.kestrelmakes.com - why not have a go?



Quick-fire round

Pencil or circle skirt? **Pencil**

Vintage chic or bold retro?
Bold retro

Patchwork or quilting? **Patchwork**

Fabric or pattern shopping? **Fabric**

Early bird or night owl stitching?
Night owl (although I fall asleep before I get the chance these days!)

For more from Deborah, follow her blog at www.dfabricate.blogspot.co.uk

fashion forecast

THE SCUBA TREND

This ocean worthy fabric should definitely be your first port of call when stitching a statement frock this season. Dive head first into a great selection of plain or bold prints and create stunning pieces that are sure to make an impact in your wardrobe.

*Scuba fabric
is this season's
hottest trend*

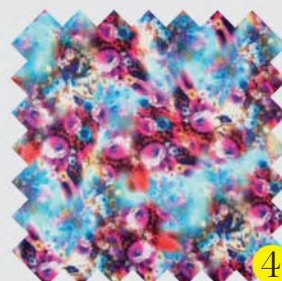


“Test your stitching skills and create a fun garment using one of these bold printed neoprenes”

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**Ann Robinson,
Abakhan**

FABRIC PICKS



- 1** Marble Digital Print Scuba Purple
 - 2** Vivid Digital Print Scuba Green
 - 3** Vivid Digital Print Scuba Pink
 - 4** Painted Flowers Digital Print Scuba Multi
 - 5** Lilies Digital Print Scuba Grey
- All featured fabrics are available from Abakhan for £6.35 per metre, www.abakhan.co.uk



A RIOT OF *print & colour*

The Cath Kidston AW15 collection is in store now – purses at the ready!

The unmistakable nostalgic prints and whimsical designs of Cath Kidston can be found gracing kitchen worktops, sewing rooms and wardrobes in homes across Britain, and overseas, making it hard to believe that just over 20 years before, the brand was merely the concept of a country-born English designer.

Since then, the Cath Kidston team has produced hundreds of print designs and this autumn/winter, the collection takes a reflective look back

over that archive. “The range was inspired by the concept of modern vintage, reworking some of our favourite prints from seasons past into new, modern colourways. Classic Cath Kidston designs have been given another well-deserved season in the spotlight,” Design Director Christine reveals.

Here we take a closer look at the trademark florals, spots and novelty prints, reworked, relived and in store, ready to capture your imagination once more!



“Pretty, feminine florals will always be at the heart”

Director of Design, Christine Hafsten, takes us behind the scenes at the Cath Kidston studio

“I have always been passionate about design and in particular, print. I grew up in Oslo, Norway, in a very creative family. My mother is a very keen gardener, and being surrounded by English flowers like country roses and foxgloves kick-started my passion for classic floral prints. I completed a Master of Fine Art: Fashion Print degree at Central St. Martin’s in London, and while studying, I was lucky enough to be selected for an internship at Alexander McQueen, which cemented my passion for design. I have also worked for prestigious brands Louis Vuitton and Burberry.

“I was thrilled when I was approached by Cath Kidston to head up the print team, and I was promoted to Design Director last December. With print at its heart, I had always wanted to work for the company, so I felt I had really obtained my dream job! I don’t believe in luck, rather in hard work, and long term goals. “Cath Kidston is the home of modern vintage, and since our brand was born in 1993, we have looked to vintage ideas to create our own prints, which we use on products that fit into our customer’s modern lifestyle. Pretty, feminine

florals will always be at the heart, but our offering also includes witty novelty designs. “The team looks for inspiration all around, for example, our sausage dogs print was inspired by a visit to the office from designer Isabelle’s little dachshunds. We fell in love with them and began sketching them for a print right away! However, now that the brand is over 20 years old, we are also in a position to revisit our extensive print archive. This is the first season that we have really focused on reworking

“We focused on reworking classic prints”

and recolouring classic, iconic prints. Once we are happy with the aesthetics of each one, we play with colour to find the best combinations. We create them to sit together in groups rooted in

the same inspiration, and develop colour stories based on tones that sit well together in a range, while offering variety and choice.

“This season we have added to our range of fabric. We stock most of our designs in cotton duck, oilcloth and some key prints in our new coated cotton, which is great for home crafting as it is wipe clean. I would recommend using the fabrics to stitch classic day dresses, fitted with solid colour binding on the edges, and lovely full skirts with pleats at the waist.”



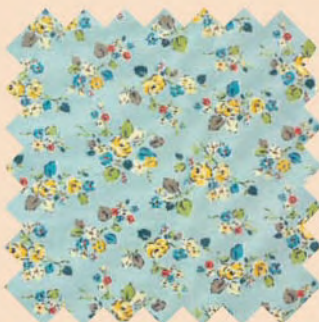
4 new releases!

Your fabric shopping list is about to expand with these new season prints



Woodland

Falling leaves in green and golden tones.



Woodland Rose

A new ditsy showing country roses.



Park Rose

A signature floral in pastel hues.

Billie Goes to Town

Inspired by Cath’s sealyham terrier, Billie.



Available from www.cathkidston.com



PENGUINS ROYAL BLUE DRESS, £65



PRETTY PRINTED BAGS IN REWORKED PRINTS, FROM £38



BRAND FOUNDER, CATH KIDSTON



COWBOY CHARCOAL SLEEVELESS DRESS, £65



“We felt it was time to give some of the existing prints another season in the spotlight”

Cath Kidston Brand Historian, Elisabeth Leester, on how the reworked range came about

“Cath’s original designs were inspired by the prints and colours of her childhood; taking the vintage English style she grew up with and making it modern. Since the company was founded, we’ve branched out into different illustration styles and print subjects, and become bolder with colour along the way, too. Our product range has also expanded hugely as the company has grown. “The design team, which consists of 12 designers, searches for inspiration all over. Prints might be inspired by vintage finds, trips abroad, books, or images found online. They are always on the lookout for beautiful, unexpected colours and combinations; something that was particularly relevant to this collection.

“The entire team was given carte blanche to choose their favourite prints”

“The original idea to revisit our print library came from Cath, after she visited a craft fair and met lots of customers wearing our old dresses and bags and was inspired to look again at prints from our past. We create so many new designs each season, and not all of them remain in the range for long. We felt it was time to give some of the existing ones that we’d missed another season in the spotlight. The entire team was given carte blanche to choose their favourite prints and rework and recolour them as they saw fit. They chose both familiar favourites and rarities, very old designs and much newer ones, and the best re-imagined versions made it into the final edit.”

Brand Historian Elisabeth Leester’s personal favourites

Posy

This is the oldest print in the collection, dating back to around 1998, so we’re really fond of it. It was our first ditsy design and has been given a 2015 update with subtle tweaks to the artwork and fresh new colours.



British Birds

A runway success when it was first introduced for AW11, as it offered an equally beautiful alternative to our classic large scale florals. We’ve reworked it in a gentle grey and a rich berry red that’s always really popular.



Spray Flowers

This is probably our definitive midscale trailing floral – it was a bestseller when it launched in SS09, particularly on china and other kitchen products. This season it looks almost unrecognisable blown up to a bold new scale and given pops of neon colour on homewares.



Cowboy

A classic print that everyone loves! First launched back in 2001, for AW15 it looks really fresh coloured up on a charcoal background with flashes of magenta pink and lime green. This season we’ve used it on fashion pieces rather than traditional accessories and homewares.



Bloomsbury Bouquet

Another relatively recent print, it only dates back to SS13, but we think it’s so beautiful we just had to use it again. The artwork was inspired by traditional, large scale designs for upholstery fabric, so it looks quite bold and dramatic when used on accessories and fashion.



REAL READER

Why I love Cath Kidston!

“Cath Kidston fabrics seem to work so well in any setting, be it contemporary, vintage or traditional. This is a peg bag I made using two Cath Kidston prints. The quality makes it such a pleasure to work with.”

Amanda Barwick





Sue's STITCH SCHOOL

“Use French knots to create an embellished purse”

Essentials

- Linen fabric, 25cm x 40cm
- Contrasting silk lining
- Lightweight wadding
- Felt, scraps
- Six stranded embroidery threads, selection
- Coordinating sewing thread
- Crewel needle
- Erasable marker pen
- Embroidery hoop
- Purse frame

Dimensions

13cm x 15cm

stitch a purse

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download the template. Print and trace onto card. Place it on linen fabric and draw around it. Place in an embroidery hoop.

2 Cut out seven small circles from felt. Pin these in place on the linen, keeping them at least 8mm from the edge. Thread a crewel needle with one strand of embroidery thread and oversew each one in place, with small, even stitches.

3 Thread the needle with three strands of thread. Starting with the central circle, surround each with a border of French knots. Change colour and outline with a second border, just outside the first.

4 Using the picture as a guide, continue embroidering circles of French knots around the felt circles, and lines of French knots in between. Include pistil stitches, radiating out from the centres of the circles.

There's a whole family of knotted embroidery stitches, of which the French knot is probably the most well known. It forms a neat, round single knotted stitch that sits on the surface of the fabric, like a little bead. In this project, we have also used a variation called pistil stitch, with a straight line forming a little stalk, with the knot at one end. This versatile stitch can be used as an accent, worked in lines, or clustered together. They are generally used alongside other stitches, but in this project they are given a starring role.



5 When the embroidery is complete, remove the fabric from the hoop, place face down on a folded towel, and press with a hot iron to remove any creases in the fabric.

6 Cut around the embroidered front section of the purse. Using the original card template, cut one piece from linen for the back, two from silk lining and two from lightweight wadding. Mark points A and B on both the linen and the lining.

7 Tack one piece of wadding to the wrong side of each linen piece, stitching with an 8mm seam allowance. Place these right sides together and stitch the sides and base between the points marked A. Repeat for the two lining pieces.

8 Take one corner of the outer bag and match the side and base

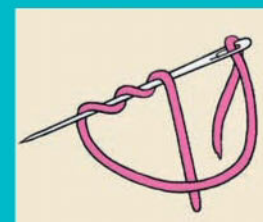
seams, flattening it to form a triangle. Measure 3cm up from the tip of the triangle and mark a line across the corner at this point. Stitch along this line. Cut off any excess, 8mm from the stitching. Repeat with the other corner of the outer bag and the inner lining.

9 Turn the outer bag out and place it inside the lining, right sides together. Pin and stitch the two flaps of the bag together. Leave a gap between points B on one side. Turn the bag out through the gap, then tuck in the seam allowance on the opening and slipstitch closed.

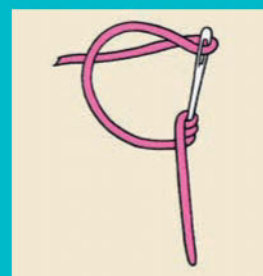
10 Use the point of a scissor blade to push the edge of one side of the bag top up into the gap of a purse frame. Using three strands of embroidery thread, stitch through the holes in the frame, and through all layers of fabric, in back stitch. Repeat on the other side. Add a wrist strap if desired.

PISTIL STITCH

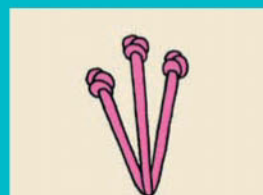
1 Bring the needle up through the fabric at the bottom of the stalk. Hold the thread taut between your finger and thumb, take the needle under the thread and wrap it around three times.



2 Insert the needle back through the fabric at the place where you want the French knot to be positioned.



3 Pull the needle to tighten the knot. Repeat the process to create a series of knots and stalks.



Get this pink
bobble purse
frame at
www.u-handbag.com

Sewing success!

You need both hands to work French knots: one to manipulate the needle and the other to hold the thread taut. Stretch the fabric in a hoop or frame to help.

Quick stitch

Liberty watch

Essentials

- Liberty fabric
- Coordinating thread
- Watch face, 2cm wide
- Clear press studs, 5mm, two

Dimensions

5cm x 33cm

Make your own designer time piece

This stylish watch by Louise Nichols is so easy to stitch and only requires a few strips of your favourite Liberty print. The straps are attached to the watch face using poppers, which means you could make them in a whole range of interchangeable colours and designs.



the
haberdashery



**Liberty
Lifestyle Wells**

We used Wells Blue cotton print from Liberty's Stile collection. For a great selection of Liberty fabrics, visit www.sewbox.co.uk

sew a Liberty watch

1 Download the templates from www.sewmag.co.uk and print. Cut four shapes from fabric. Place two pieces right sides together and stitch using a 5mm seam allowance, leaving the flat end open.

2 Clip the curves, trim the corners and turn through the gap. Turn in, press and hand sew the opening shut using coordinating thread. Repeat for the remaining strap pieces.

3 Push one of the straps through the top bar of a watch face. Thread through, folding

the shorter end under by about 7cm. Repeat with the other piece, then sew a press stud on both straps so it fastens the shorter section underneath the longer one. To wear, simply tie around your wrist. If you require a longer length, elongate the strap templates.

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- ✓ Drop & Sew bobbin
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KEY FEATURES:

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- ✓ 175 embroidery designs
- ✓ On screen design editing
- ✓ Memory facility
- ✓ Colour touch screen

www.janome.co.uk, 0161 666 6011.

£1,799



HUSQVARNA VIKING TOPAZ 40

The Topaz 40 by Husqvarna Viking has a number of high-end features for sewing and embroidery. The large colour touch screen makes it easy to navigate through the various options, and you can view designs and text clearly on screen. Match your embroideries perfectly every time with basic design positioning and there's built-in support with Quick Help. Free motion embroidery and quilting can be created with any stitch you choose, and the start/stop button means you don't even have to use the foot control.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Colour touch screen
- ✓ Exclusive sensor system
- ✓ Large embroidery area
- ✓ Embroidery design editing
- ✓ Basic design positioning

www.husqvarnaviking.com

My machine and I...

Queenie and Ted co-founder Kally Laurence tells us about her sewing machine

"I love my Husqvarna Viking Designer 2 as it's a fantastic all rounder. I chose it as I wanted something that

was heavy duty as I often use it for large projects in schools. The big quilting platform's great. It's also perfect when doing appliqué work for Queenie and Ted as it has a wide range of embroidery stitches and an automatic foot raising and dropping feature that really saves time when stitching around intricate shapes. If my house was burning down, I'd definitely try and save my sewing machine!"



MODEL of the MONTH

£1,199



PFAFF CREATIVE 1.5

This brand-new sewing and embroidery model from Pfaff offers integrated dual feed for absolutely even fabric feeding from the top and bottom. The handsome red design features a large sewing space, making it perfect for quilters, home décor sewers and dressmakers alike. For free-motion stippling and easy quilting, simply attach the special presser foot. There are a variety of beautiful 7mm stitches to select from, including utility, buttonholes, satin and decorative varieties. In addition, there are two built in alphabets with numbers and symbols for personalising projects. The electronic thread tension makes sewing simple, as does an integrated needle threader, speed slider and needle up/down functions. Up to 60 stitches and/or letters can be combined and saved to the sequence memory. Designs can also be flipped for more creative possibilities.

"The handsome red design features a large sewing space"

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Original IDT System
- ✓ Large sewing area
- ✓ High embroidery speed
- ✓ Embroidery intro software included
- ✓ Integrated needle threader

PRICE: £1,199

www.pfaff.com, 01527 519480.

£2,999



BROTHER INNOV-IS V5

The large, bright LCD touch screen of this attractive model from Brother's Innov-is series offers user friendly controls to select designs, edit patterns and adjust stitches. The extra large long arm gives you more sewing space than ever for oversized projects. There are numerous exquisite embroidery designs available and new ones can be imported via the USB port. With the eco-mode function, the Innov-is V5 will automatically switch to an energy saving mode after a period of non use. It also has seven-point feed, a knee lifter, and a quick set bobbin.

KEY FEATURES:

- ✓ Continuous auto pressure system
- ✓ 28.5cm long arm
- ✓ Large embroidery area
- ✓ High speed sewing
- ✓ LCD touch screen

www.brothersewing.co.uk, 0333 777 4444.

SHOP of the MONTH

"As owner of Leamington Spa Sewing I have over 35 years experience in the sewing machine industry. Part of this time was spent working for VSM (owners of Pfaff and Husqvarna Viking sewing machines). I was part of the design team for a number of years working with technicians, writing instruction books and developing the products that we all enjoy today. So when it comes to Pfaff and sewing machines in general, I really know my stuff! You can read what I have to say about the products I sell on my website. I am proud of the sewing machines and fabric business I have established over the last 12 years."

Sue, Leamington Spa Sewing

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

- ✓ A wide range of sewing machines
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- ✓ Extensive range of fabrics
- ✓ Haberdashery, wool and servicing

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COPY YOUR CLOTHES WORKSHOP

Editorial Assistant, Carolyn discovers what it takes to make a dressmaking pattern from your favourite clothes

I am extremely new to the world of dressmaking. I've helped my mum make dresses, but have yet to make an entire garment from scratch. So when I got the chance to learn the very basics of how to draft a pattern, and better yet, from clothes I already own, I jumped at it. Tilly and the Button's Copy Your Clothes Workshop sounded really good fun, and a brilliant way to learn as the class was small, so I wouldn't be left floundering!

I arrived and met our teacher for the day, Zoe Edwards, who was enthusiastic and friendly. I also got chatting with other early arrivals, Charlie and Marc. Charlie had been sewing her own clothes for a while, and Marc was even wearing a pair of chinos he had made himself. I was very impressed!

As soon as we had all settled in and looked in our goodie bags, Zoe told us exactly what we would be doing. We went around the room and showed her what we had brought along to make patterns from. There was an array of dresses, skirts and tops, all in different fabrics. I took along a peplum top, circle skirt and a favourite dress.

Zoe explained that the easiest way to make a pattern from an existing garment, is to unpick it completely, or cut along the seam lines and trace around the shape of each section. However, Zoe broke down the process by using one of our garments as an example without doing either. Sometimes you still want to keep the clothes you love!

The first step was to identify how many pattern pieces we would need to make. Zoe showed us how to fold the garments along their seam lines, and draw around sections

"I REALLY FELT I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT THE PROCESS OF MAKING MY OWN CLOTHES"



individually to work this out. Most items could be broken down into simple parts such as front bodice, back bodice etc, and we jotted these down to keep track.

Once we figured out the grainline of our fabric and had drawn a line on our pattern paper to represent this, the fun could begin. We got to work pinning our items to the paper and drawing around them. We used a variety of tools that Zoe had introduced us to such as French curves and tracing wheels. After drawing each section, we checked the dimensions with a tape measure to make sure they were the same on both the garment and pattern.

When we were sure each section was complete, we added in our seam allowances and any extra markings, like darts or pleats. We could also make adjustments or alter the pattern if we wanted. Zoe gave us lots of tips and tricks and encouraged us to see our garments like a puzzle that, once solved, would give us all the answers to making our pattern.

The joy of this class was that we could learn from each other too, and I really felt I learned a lot about the process of making my own clothes. Plus, we all went away with at least one pattern from our items!

I think a workshop like this is perfect for picking up a new skill. Dressmaking is a lot of fun, and I feel far more confident reading a pattern now that I can imagine it being put together. Copying clothes you love is great for all those items that are worn to death, but you can't bear to part with. Give it a go and make a whole wardrobe of favourite things!

Why not brush up on your skills, or learn a whole new set with Tilly and her team? Visit www.tillyandthebuttons.com to find out more.

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Lorraine Luximon, Sew Editor

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- Meet Prince George's clothes designer
- We meet Patrick Grant
- Autumn makes and gifts
- Great garments to stitch and wear

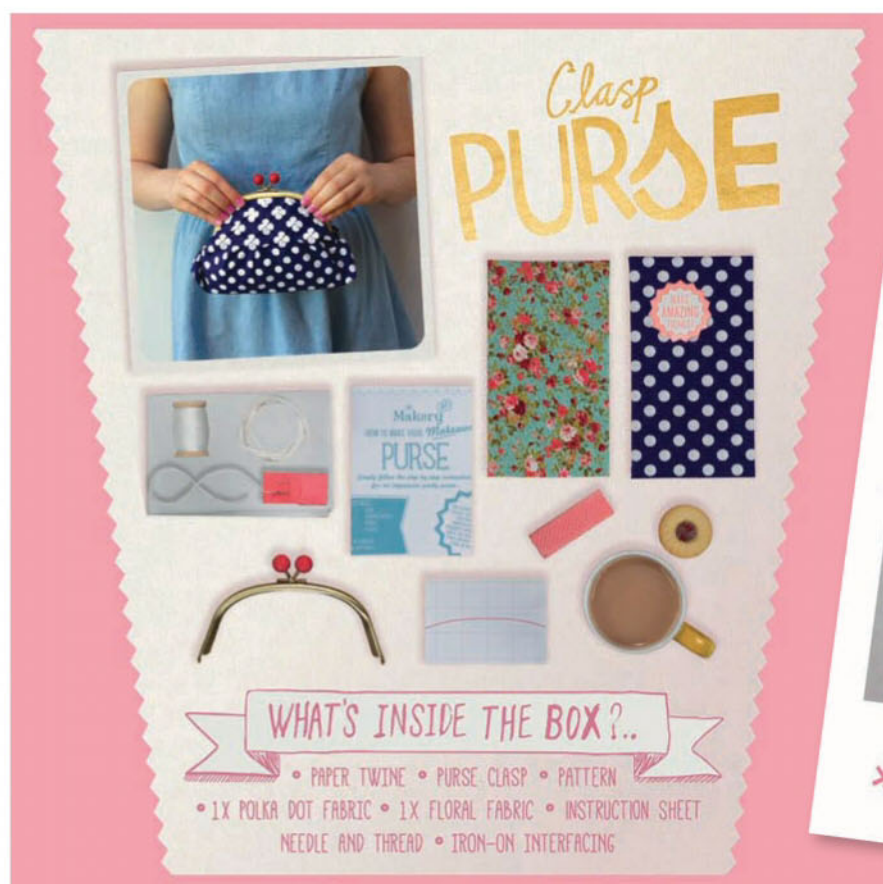
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WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Improve your sewing skill set with a fun and friendly class

workshop of the month

PAMPER YOUR POOCH

In this brand-new workshop at Millie Moon, you'll have the opportunity to stitch your canine companion his or her very own jacket. It's important to keep dogs protected from the elements, however, finding ready-made coats to fit can be tricky. In this four-hour workshop, you will learn basic pattern cutting to make a made to measure paper pattern using your pooch's dimensions. This class is suitable for everyone and all materials are included. Choose from a beautiful range of printed cotton fabrics for the outer and lining, and a double layer of cotton wadding to make it extra snug. You'll pick up lots of sewing tips along the way, and plenty of refreshments will be provided. Simply come armed with your dog's collar size and collar to tail measurement to begin creating a bespoke garment for your furry friend. Sign up for the class located in Frome on 6th September or 27th September at the Wells shop.



JACK RUSSELL SCRUMPY MODELS HIS NEW JACKET

DOG COATS

Millie Moon, Somerset

Price: **£45**

Why book?

- ✓ Make a bespoke dog coat
- ✓ Draft a made to measure pattern
- ✓ Learn key sewing skills

To book, visit www.milliemoonshop.co.uk

THREE MORE GREAT WORKSHOPS

FREEHAND CUTTING



CHINELO BALLY - PEPLUM OR SKATER DRESS

The Cloth Clinic, Essex

If you'd like to build your confidence and gain the skills to adapt your favourite styles, this full day workshop at The Cloth Clinic is for you. With *The Great British Sewing Bee* series two finalist Chinelo Bally as your tutor, you will be shown a freehand cutting method to transfer your measurements straight onto fabric. Priced £70, the next class is on 6th November. For more details, visit www.theclothclinic.co.uk



LEARN MILLINERY

MILLINERY - ORGANDIE FLOWER HEAD DRESSES

West Dean College, Chichester

On this four-day course, students will be introduced to the art of making organdie flowers to incorporate them into a dramatic head piece. Each session will demonstrate a new technique, then tutor Jane Corbett will provide guidance as individuals create their own designs. Priced £347, the next course runs from 28th September to 1st October. To book, visit www.westdean.org.uk

ONLINE COURSE



LEARN TO SEW JERSEY TOPS

www.tillyandthebuttons.com

Learn in your own time with this online tutorial from Tilly and the Buttons. Blogger and *Sewing Bee* alumni Tilly Walnes will walk you through stitching with stretch fabrics on a regular sewing machine to create her Agnes top pattern. This is a great course for beginners and improvers who don't have an overlocker but want to sew with knits. Broken down into bitesize lessons, it's priced \$69. For more details, visit www.tillyandthebuttons.com

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Patchwork
& Quilting
Trends

you need to know about!

New to quilting, just stepping a toe into patchwork? Or a pro looking for something new to try, then here are the trends set to take your work from ok to oh-wow!

the new Patchwork & Quilting Trends

Quilted jackets

Think quilted jackets are just for the equestrian set? Think again, choose the right fabric, and a padded jacket could be your new favourite summer to winter cover-up.

Dressmaker Amanda Walker's top tips for quilted fashion



- The method for quilted clothes is the same as any other project, just make sure you choose a washable wadding.
- Work the quilting before making up. Rough cut around the pattern pieces, then quilt using a sewing machine or if you prefer, by hand.
- For a professional finish, make sure the quilting lines match across the front pieces.
- Once the sections are quilted, cut out the pieces accurately and make up as usual.



www.peterhahn.co.uk



See p102
for more



English paper piecing... revisited!

English paper piecing (EPP) is an old technique which has enjoyed a renaissance and is currently taking the world by storm. Hand sewn over sturdy paper and joined with a tiny oversew, EPP projects are portable, addictive and bang on-trend.

For great projects ideas, see *All Points Patchwork* by Diane Gilleland (£14.99, Storey Publishing).

www.simplybe.co.uk



WEARABLE PATCHWORK

Patchwork is not only a fantastic medium for disguising any holes or irreparable snags, but is now observed as a fashion trend in its own right. The high street is full of patchwork denim and contrast panels, but you can get the look on a shoestring by using different washes of denim off-cuts or your fave fabric swatches.



FABRIC ACCESSORIES

Patchwork jewellery? Yes it's totally a thing. Create chain necklaces, brooches, earrings, in fact anything you fancy. Find out how to make this darling design in issue 7 of our sister title, *Make it Today* which is on sale now.



"In our latest issue we show how you can incorporate patchwork not only into your home, but your style as well!"

Ella Johnston, Editor *Make it Today*



Quilting makes great TV!

Modern sewing is all about making the best use of all the gorgeous prints that are now available together with the very best notions and threads. We're really excited that *Sew* columnist Stuart Hillard will be joining the regular team of presenters on Create and Craft TV as a guest presenter in the coming months, showcasing great kits, techniques and more! For more information, see www.creatandcraft.tv

"I've designed some fabulous quilt kits and sewing projects using gorgeous, fresh, modern fabrics and easy techniques that will make sewing fun and achievable!"

Stuart Hillard, sewing personality

go geometric

Geometrics in all their shapes and forms are a top trend. If you manage to get to Festival of Quilts you'll see what we mean. Sign up to the Subtract That class on 6th August, and you'll discover how to use positive and negative to full advantage to create a geometric pattern in appliqué. Students will have a choice of four different patterns, one of which can be used in the class and then take the rest home. Plus, the technique is very quick and easy to master! For more information, see www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk

See p77 to make this geo design



the hot fabric prints!

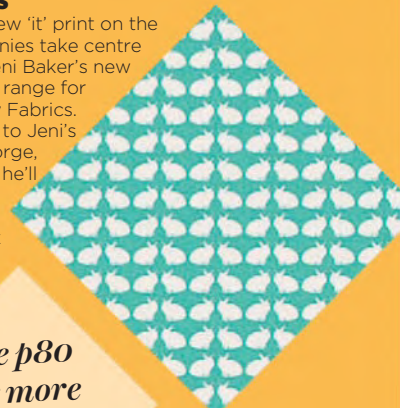
Pond life

Pond life is a big trend in patchwork fabrics, if you need evidence just look at the latest Cloud9 Fabrics collections! *Water Land* by Jessica Nielsen features ducks, fish and waterlilies, and *Park Life* by Elizabeth Olwen has beautiful swans, plus cute snails and florals.



Bunnies

Another new 'it' print on the block. Bunnies take centre stage in Jeni Baker's new Curiosities range for Art Gallery Fabrics. Dedicated to Jeni's bunny George, we're sure he'll be a hit in quilts and patchwork makes.



See p80 for more of Jeni's range

Oh deer!

Deers are always a popular motif come Christmas, but this woodland fave has been hot since spring! Art Gallery Fabrics' Hello Bear Buck Forest Mist is a top seller.



All ranges are distributed by Hantex, visit www.hantex.co.uk or call 01754 820800 for stockists.



SEW SATURDAY!

What's happening?

Show some love for your local fabric store on 17th October!

It's been a very busy time at *Sew* HQ, as we put plans in motion for our fabulous Sew Saturday event. Sew Saturday will take place on 17th October and is a celebration of the independent fabric store and haberdasher. It's a way of showing some love for your local bricks and mortar stores, and we want to help get you ready for the big day by sharing news of the wide range of special events happening across the country!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE DAY



There will be guest appearances from leading names in the industry like *Sewing Bee* star Heather Jacks who will be at The Faff Room in Mansfield. Plus there are workshops, make & takes, discounts and

competitions for you to get involved in, so there's something for everyone. It's a great opportunity to go along and support your local participating shop!

MEET THE SEW TEAM

We will be heading to Franklins in Colchester to get involved in all the fun. Stop by and say hi! There will be FREE goodie bags for the first shoppers through the door!



SEW SATURDAY IS IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Simplicity** AND SUPPORTED BY:



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Sew Saturday Ambassadors!



"I'm a big fan of the bricks and mortar style of shop. Fabric stores have the sort of passion, inspiration, expertise and warmth that's hard to replicate anywhere else and if we support our local shops they do the same back!"

Stuart Hillard



"Fabric and haberdashery are in a league of their own when it comes to stimulating the senses. For me, being in a fabric shop is like being in a sweet shop

without the problem of those calories! So join us on Sew Saturday by visiting your local fabric shop, and have fun choosing all that you need for your next project!"

May Martin

WHAT'S BEING SAID ABOUT SEW SATURDAY...



"One of the things I love most about owning my own business is that I get to meet so many people in my shop and give them help

and advice on their projects. Having those face to face chats is one thing that's unique to visiting a real store, so I'm really excited to be part of the Sew Saturday campaign"

Lauren Guthrie, Guthrie & Ghani



"After the success of Yarn Shop Day we know this will be another fantastic event for both customers and us – we're all

so excited! We have a lot going on in store. There'll be cake, demonstrations, make & takes and balloon prizes, plus discounts and goodie bags."

Beth Abakhan, Abakhan



"THE SEWING DIRECTORY IS FULLY BEHIND SEW SATURDAY, ANYTHING THAT ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO VISIT THEIR LOCAL SEWING SHOP IS A GREAT IDEA. NOTHING BEATS SEEING AND FEELING FABRIC IN PERSON WHEN BUYING, AND WE SHOULD ALL BE DOING OUR BEST TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES WHERE POSSIBLE TO HELP KEEP THEM GOING. GO FORTH AND SHOP!"

Fiona Pullen, The Sewing Directory

OWN A STORE?

If you own a store and want to get involved, email saturday@sewmag.co.uk for more information and an introductory starter pack. This includes downloadable projects for make & takes or in-store competitions like our Sew Saturday Aly Owl Mascot and fetching Sew Saturday skirt!



JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON TWITTER @SEWHQ AND FACEBOOK. WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR PLANS FOR THE BIG DAY!



Fancy getting involved?

Turn over to find a guide to the shops taking part, plus a list of who's recently signed up is updated on our blog www.sewmag.co.uk/blog. You can also check out our interactive map to easily locate the shops in your area that are holding Sew Saturday events.

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Saturday

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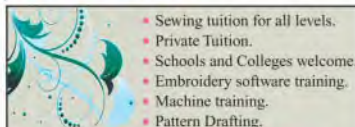
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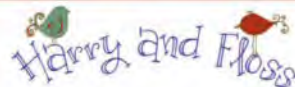
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In March the **'Walkaway Dress'** (B4790, shown right) featured on *The Great British Sewing Bee*.

Thousands of sewers in the UK have since been inspired to buy the pattern and create their own version of this Butterick classic; sharing pictures of their Walkaway Dresses on Facebook and Twitter, on their blogs and sewing websites.

Fabric stores around the country have held 'Walkaway Workshops', so whatever a sewer's skill level, they have been able to create their own unique 'Walkaway Dress'.

Every pattern we've sold has included a contribution to the Eve Appeal Charity.

We are hosting an afternoon tea to celebrate the 'Walkaway' phenomenon on **Wednesday 7th October at the Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, London,**

Do join us and our sewing celebrity guests, to enjoy a traditional afternoon tea and to help us make the presentation of the cheque to the Eve Appeal charity.

Of course we hope you will attend wearing your Walkaway Dress, but don't worry it's not compulsory!



If you haven't made your dress yet, there's still time!

After all, the dress gained its name in 1952 because it is

'so easy, you can start it after breakfast ...

walk-away in it for luncheon!'

B4790: Available from www.sewdirect.com

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BRITISH SEWING AWARDS

EXPERT JUDGES

May Martin: Best Haberdashery Brand

This year *The Great British Sewing Bee* judge and Sew columnist May Martin will be taking to our prestigious panel for a second year and will be nominating the Best Haberdashery Brand.



Matt Chapple: Best Cutting Tool Brand

We're pleased to be welcoming *The Great British Sewing Bee* series three winner, Matt Chapple to the team to judge new category, Best Cutting Tool Brand to recognise which product range is a cut above when it comes to precision and ease of use!

We're pleased to announce the return of the British Sewing Awards for 2015 and we want you to nominate the people, places and products that enhance your hobby. Whether it's a blog or book that's taught you new techniques, or your local haberdashery shop you'd like to give a special mention, now's your chance! Those with the most nominations will then be

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GIVE YOUR FAVOURITE STITCHING BRANDS, PERSONALITIES AND HABERDASHERS THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE IN THE BRITISH SEWING AWARDS 2015 AND YOU COULD WIN A BUNDLE OF PRIZES!

put through to our voting stage, where you will have the opportunity to place your final votes. Simply complete the form overleaf, or visit www.sewmag.co.uk/awards. Not only will your favourites be in with a chance of winning an award, but you'll be entered into our prize draw to win a stash of sewing goodies worth £250. Have your say now!

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your nominations

PRODUCTS:

Best thread brand

.....

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Best fabric brand

.....

.....

Best new product 2015

.....

.....

SEWING MACHINES:

Best entry level sewing machine brand

.....

.....

Best quilting sewing machine brand

.....

.....

Best embroidery sewing machine brand

.....

.....

Most desirable sewing machine

Brand:

Model:

ONLINE:

Best sewing blog

.....

.....

Best online retailer

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RETAILERS:

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(please tick area then add shop name and town/village)

☐ Wales

☐ Ireland

☐ Scotland

☐ North of England

☐ South of England

☐ Midlands

Shop:

Town:

Best pattern house

.....

.....

Best for customer service

.....

.....

RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES:

Favourite sewing personality

.....

.....

Best sewing book 2015

.....

.....

Best for sewing workshops/courses

.....

.....

Best exhibition/event experience 2015

.....

.....



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CLOSING DATE: 2ND AUGUST 2015 FOR NOMINATIONS

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Terms & conditions of entry and data protection

All entries must be received by 02/08/15. The competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 and over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies & their families. One entry per household. Prizes will be given to the first entrants drawn at random by 28/08/15. Entrants must be made at www.sewmag.co.uk/awards or on the coupon provided (no purchase necessary). Photocopies are NOT accepted. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by the rules will be disqualified. No responsibility for entries lost, delayed or damaged in the post, proof of posting is not proof of delivery. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Winner's name and county will be available by sending an SAE marked British Sewing Awards to Marketing Department, 21-23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, CO2 8JY.

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at home with...

STUART HILLARD

“This is the month to try a brand new technique, just because it looks fun!”

It's the start of autumn and the season for lots of sewing, knitting and craft shows around the British Isles. It's a very inspiring time of year, because I get to meet many thousands of people who are just as passionate about fabric and yarn as I am, sometimes even more so. I never tire of seeing things that other crafters have made, whether they are seasoned sewers or first timers. The motivation that I gain from being around others who share my joy is immense and keeps me going all year!

Talking of inspiration, I have been teaching a series of seminars recently, aimed at craft retailers, with the specific focus of encouraging creativity from their customers. It's easy to assume that creativity always comes naturally. Most of us, myself included, need a helping hand every now and then, whether it's to get out of a colour rut, step outside our comfort zone or try something completely new.

I spent many happy years as an infant school teacher, and it never failed to impress me that the youngest children had a perfect willingness to have a go at pretty much anything. When you don't know the rules or your own limitations, there is nothing to hold you back, but before we know it, there are so many things we tell ourselves we simply can't do. Maybe this is the month that every one of us should try something new, buy a fabric in a colour we would never consider using, or learn a different technique just because it looks fun. If you're going to any of the craft shows this autumn, look out for all the fabulous demos that are going on, take a short class and be prepared to play like children do. You never know what you might discover!

Stuart x



Our favourite home stitcher gets crafty with colouring

Style Advice

Monochromatic colour schemes often make use of a single shade, but the most successful use a variety of tones. Achieved by adding white to the base colour, this look adds a wonderful sense of cohesion to a room and is a good choice if you are trying to mix different styles of architecture or furniture. Use a variety of textures to create extra interest. Here's an interesting fact, new babies do not see colour well, so black and white objects and fabrics are the most visually appealing to them!

Stuart's Stash

I am loving the new black and white prints from Studio KM for FreeSpirit Fabrics. Byzantium comes in a number of different designs ideal for colouring and embellishment!

www.freespiritfabric.com



HOME INSPIRATIONS

One of the hottest trends in crafting right now is colouring in, a favourite childhood pastime of mine! There is something wonderfully soothing about the simple act of staying between the lines. There are some beautifully complex black and white printed fabrics on the market right now, and teamed with a set of fabric pens and an iron, they offer up unlimited possibilities for creating exciting projects. Wash your chosen fabric first to remove any sizing, as this can inhibit take up of some dyes. Iron it onto sheets of freezer paper or place it in a large embroidery hoop to stabilise it. Many pens allow you to build up colour, so just one can offer many different shades. Let the fabric dry, then iron to heat set the inks, following the manufacturer's instructions. You could even go one step further and add hand or machine embroidery or surface embellishments like beads or jewels. Use your totally unique fabrics in a home dec project, a bag or even framed on the wall!

“One of the hottest trends in crafting right now is colouring in”



www.aspace.com

Find out more at www.stuarthillard.com

1950s kitchen

Create a welcoming space to make delicious meals in

The kitchen is where all the good stuff happens. Food-themed prints and 1950s diner-inspired trims are the order of the day when making this essential room your culinary kingdom. Switch traditional blues and greens for fresh pinks and yellows, if you so desire, and accessories look even better when made from your favourite tasty treats in fabric form.



Clockwise from bottom left: **1** Lemons in Sky, Metro Market collection by Monaluna for Robert Kaufman, £12 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com **2** Teapots, Tea Garden collection by Molly Hatch for Blend Fabrics, £14 per metre, www.elephantinmyhandbag.com **3** Novelty Cupcake ribbon 25mm, 70p per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk **4** Encore Food, The Very Hungry Caterpillar collection by Makower, £11 per metre, www.plushaddict.co.uk **5** Blenders, Metro Cafe collection by Monaluna for Robert Kaufman, £12 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com **6** Recipes in Vanilla Navy, Feed Company collection by Sweetwater, £12.40 per metre, www.honeybeecloths.co.uk **7** Dress It Up In the Kitchen buttons, £2.45, www.beadandbuttoncompany.co.uk **8** Blue Utensils, Milk Cow Kitchen collection by Mary Jane Butters for Moda, £12.40 per metre, www.honeybeecloths.co.uk **9** Toasters, Metro Cafe collection by Monaluna for Robert Kaufman, £12 per metre, www.eternalmaker.com **10** Flower Sugar Teapot on white canvas, £12.50 per metre, www.sewhot.co.uk **11** Spoons in Grey, Tea Garden collection by Molly Hatch for Blend Fabrics, £14 per metre, www.elephantinmyhandbag.com

*Use ice cream
colours to
stand out on
white tiling*

*Create
patchwork
accessories in
dainty floral
prints*

Essentials

- Cotton fabric, coordinating
- Sewing themed ribbon
- Black button
- Lace flower
- Metallic ribbon, scrap
- Elasticated cord
- Jam jars with lids
- Acid-free glue stick

Dimensions

13cm diameter

pretty jar toppers

Keep your sewing stash tidy with our jam jar lid covers

Give a new lease of life to an empty jam jar by using them to organise your sewing bits and bobs. Designer Carolyn Letten shows how you can use simple techniques to create fabric covers to make them look beautiful as they house your craft stash essentials.

make a pincushion lid cover

1 Cut a 13cm circle from green floral fabric. Tack 1cm in from the edge all the way around, pull the stitches together, but allow enough space to push stuffing in. Firmly stuff, then pull the stitching tightly and secure the end. To create a nicely shaped dome, lace the underside by crossing over long stitches from one edge of the circle to the other and set aside.

2 Using lime green fabric, cut a 13cm circle and a 7.5cm grey gingham one. Add interfacing to the gingham circle and sew it onto the middle of the lime one by stitching around it 3mm from the edge.

3 Create three individual loops from scissor print ribbon so that the scissors show and all three match. Secure them by stitching the raw ends at intervals of a third onto the gingham circle.

4 Cut a 13cm diameter circle from green fabric and lay it right sides together with the front and pin in place. Stitch around the edge, using a 1cm seam allowance, making sure the ribbon loops do not catch in the stitches and leaving a small gap for turning. Clip the curves and turn out. Press and topstitch 1mm in from the edge. Stitch a second line around the circle, 8mm in from the first.

5 Take a 25cm length of elastic cord and secure one end to a small safety pin. Thread this through the gap in the seam, going all the way around and out of the same gap. Place the cover over your chosen jam jar lid and pull both ends of the elastic tightly so that it has a snug fit on the jar, knot the ends.

6 Remove from the lid, push the knotted ends inside the seam and machine stitch across the gap to secure. Hand stitch the pincushion to the middle of the cover. Take a length of printed ribbon and glue or stitch it around the joint.

*Experiment with
other topper
combinations*



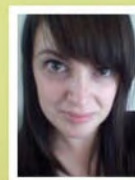
stitch a tape measure lid cover

1 Cut a 13cm circle from geometric fabric and another 7cm chevron print one, using pinking shears. Stitch the chevron print to the middle of the geometric using coordinating thread. Cut a 13cm circle for the back and pin it to the front, right sides together. With a 1cm seam, stitch all the way around leaving a gap for turning. Clip the fabric close to the stitches and turn right side out and press. Stitch 8mm in from the edge around the circle.

2 Thread a length of elastic through the gap as before, fit to your lid and secure the ends tightly. Push the knot into the seam and sew up the gap.

3 Take a length of printed tape measure ribbon and fold it over repeatedly to make seven small loops and secure with a couple of hand stitches in the middle. Place in the centre of the lid cover and sew through a black spotty button trapping a piece of metallic ribbon and purple lace flower underneath.

Sew reader Steph says....



"I love to organise my stash by colour. It creates a beautiful rainbow effect!"

Steph Brasier



the haberdashery



Ditsy flower

We used this vibrant floral print cotton from the Lime Twist range by Makower. £2.50 per fat quarter, www.secretgardenquilting.co.uk

Essentials

- Assorted printed fabrics
- White cotton
- Wadding
- White bias binding
- Coordinating thread

Dimensions

Table centrepiece: 42cm square

Coasters: 12.5cm square

patchwork a table set

Add a contemporary touch to your home with our centrepiece and coasters

A simple patchwork design can make a big statement in any room, and this table set by Lucinda Ganderton would add the perfect decorative touch. Use scraps of fabric from your stash or choose coordinating prints from your favourite range to add detail to your tabletops.

make a table centrepiece

1 Cut 16, 8.5cm squares from printed fabrics, plus 12, 3.5cm x 8.5cm rectangles, three, 3.5cm x 38.5cm dividing strips, two 5.5cm x 38.5cm and two 5.5cm x 48.5cm border strips from white cotton.

2 Lay the printed squares in rows of four, until you are happy with your design. Pin a white rectangle to the right-hand edge of the first three designs in the top row, and stitch with a 5mm seam allowance. Join the three pairs together, add the fourth square, then press the seams open. Make up another three rows in the same way.

3 Sew the top edge of the first dividing strip to the bottom of the top row and press the seam open. With right sides facing, join the second row of squares to the bottom edge of the strip, then repeat for the other two. Add the two short border strips to the sides and sew the long ones to the top and bottom edges, pressing the seams open.

4 Place 45cm of wadding on top of white cotton and cut to the same size as the table centrepiece. With the patchwork panel on top, right side up, pin the three layers together. Stitch each seam in the ditch, working across the dividing strips. Trim the finished panel to 42cm square. Bind the edge with white bias binding, curving it gently at the corners.

stitch a coaster

1 Cut out four 7cm squares from printed fabrics plus two 3.5cm x 7cm rectangles and a 3.5cm x 16cm dividing strip from white cotton.

2 Position the squares and sew the left-hand edge of a white rectangle to the right-hand edge of the top left square with a 5mm seam allowance, pressing over the squares. Sew the right edge to the top right square. Join the bottom two squares in the same way.

3 Sew the top of the dividing strip to the bottom edge of the top pair of squares and sew the bottom edge to the top edge of the other pair. Layer and quilt the patchwork, wadding and square backing as for the table centrepiece, then trim and bind the edge with white bias binding.





the haberdashery



Seed Puffs Jonquil

Sweet blooms
and cheerful
golden hues.



Petally Fresh

Natural tones make
up this floral print.



Diaphanous Sand

The perfect contrast
in a neutral tone.

We used the Gossamer range by Art Gallery Fabrics, which features a charming collection of vintage florals and classic gridwork. For stockists, visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf

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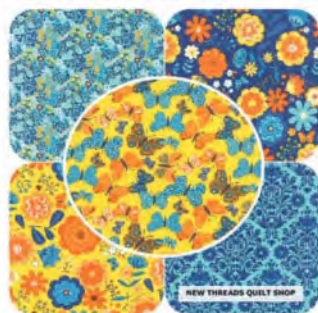


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Quilter's Corner

"I will be thinking Halloween as you enjoy your summer BBQs"

Corinne talks 'magazine time' and making quilts for loved ones

I cannot believe that we're approaching autumn. Magazine time always runs faster than 'real' time so that our lovely readers actually have the extra month or so to make projects for a particular occasion. So I'm writing this weeks before you'll read it and to be honest, I'm struggling to think of the nights drawing in and cooler evenings!

Remember how Woolworths always had the Back to School signs out before you'd broken up for the summer holidays? That's how it is at Sew HQ. I will be making up Halloween themed projects as you enjoy your summer BBQs, and I'm actually surprised I've not had my Christmas commissions yet! Now it would be difficult to try and combine quilts with going back to school, unless you count textile lessons, and my daughter's experience of them is a far cry from the kind of thing she's used to seeing me make at home. I have tried to persuade her to use a handmade patchwork tote to carry her PE kit in, but you can imagine the look of horror I received. It's alright making themed cushions, bags and noticeboards for her

friends as presents, but heaven forbid she should be seen using something herself.

My niece on the other hand is more than happy to accept my lovingly stitched offerings. She turns 20 this year and is studying at university, so not quite as self conscious as a 15 year old. One of the first things she packed for her room was a red, white and blue, patriotic vintage patchwork

quilt I'd made her a few Christmases ago, complete with pom pom trim and cuddle fleece backing. It's been joined on the sofa by the appliqué Captain America shield cushion in similar shades. I'm not entirely sure, but I get the feeling her housemates, who are all boys (it's great, they do all the cooking and won't let her take the bins out) secretly covet the quilt, especially when it's winter.

As she'll be moving into new lodgings next term, I may have to make her a few more quilts, to scatter around and share the love!

Make these adorable and useful mouse bookends in issue 7 of our sister magazine, Make it Today out now, www.makeittoday.co.uk



CORINNE BRADD



Corinne loves...

Gütermann HT2 TEXTIL Glue is solvent free and ideal for all sorts of creative work using fabrics, with the added advantage that it can withstand washing and dry cleaning. Priced £4.10, clover@stockistenquiries.co.uk 01453 883581.



Quilt Art exhibition

Quilt Art, one of Europe's leading groups of professional quilt artists, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year with an exhibition debuting at The Quilt Museum in York this autumn. This exciting new body of work showcases cutting edge quilting at its best. A must-see for quilt fanatics, head along from 11th September to 31st October 2015. Visit www.quiltmuseum.org.uk/events.

For tickets and enquiries for The Festival of Quilts, visit www.thefestivalofquilts.co.uk



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BLOCK
of the
MONTH

GO GEOMETRIC WITH THIS MONTH'S

zig zag block

This month's quilt is set to make a real statement. Featuring the REcollection range by Katarina Roccella for Art Gallery Fabrics, it has an on-trend chevron pattern that's great for showing off a bigger or bolder design. We used a colourful print for the back too, so you can display either side for a flash of brilliance in any room.

We show you how!



Essentials

- 10 coordinating prints, fat quarter of each
- Printed backing fabric, 160cm
- 4oz quilt wadding, 150cm

Dimensions

Block: 31cm square
Quilt: 107cm x 152cm

Note: Use a 5mm seam allowance unless otherwise stated.

Key:

- A:** light
B: light
C: light
D: dark
E: dark



create a block

1 Cut two 9cm squares each from two fabrics, one light (**A**), one light (**B**). Cut four 9cm squares from each of three more designs, one light (**C**) and two dark (**D** and **E**). On the reverse of the lighter coloured squares draw a diagonal line from corner to corner.

2 Pin together two squares of fabric **A** to two of **D**, two squares of **D** to two of **C**, two squares of **C** to two of **E**, and two of **E** to two of **B**, all right sides together. Stitch 5mm either side of the drawn lines [**1**]. Cut the sewn squares in half along the line [**2**], open out and press to make half square triangles [**3**].

3 Lay the triangles out to create the chevron design. Stitch together in pairs, then blocks of four. Sew these together to make a 31cm square, matching seams up accurately each time. Press.

make a quilt

1 Cut all 10 fabrics into 9cm squares and place in order, alternating light and dark prints. Make into blocks, ensuring that the first fabric of the next block corresponds with the last fabric of the one before, for a seamless chevron pattern.

2 Lay out your design in a 3.5 by 5 block design. Each vertical colour arrangement should repeat

twice. Make up the quilt top by sewing blocks right sides together, matching seams accurately. Press.

3 Press the backing fabric and lay it out on a flat surface. Place wadding on top and the quilt top right side up over this, in the centre. Pin the layers together at regular intervals and topstitch the quilt along every other zig zag in coordinating thread.

4 Trim the wadding to the same size as the quilt top and the backing fabric 2cm larger all round. Fold in 1cm of the backing fabric, then fold it over the edge of the quilt and topstitch 1mm from the inner fold to make a 1cm border, mitring the corners as you do so.



*"This quilt is reversibe, so
you can show off both sides
of your creativity"*



*Coming
next month*

MAKE A GREEK KEY BLOCK
WITH THE NEXT ISSUE OF SEW!



the haberdashery



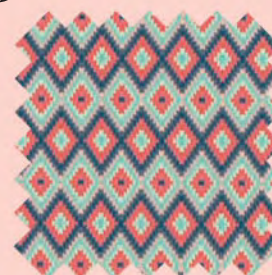
**Cuneiform
Script Fresh**

Pretty turquoise
with flecks
of white.



**Flowered
Engrams
Ornate**

A bold
pixelated floral.



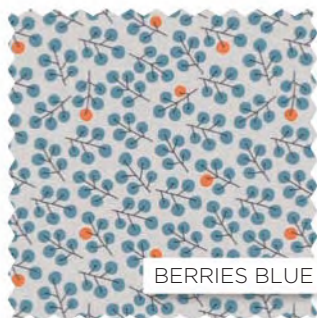
**Kilim
Inherit
Sunlit**

Colourful
diamond repeat.

We used the colourful REcollection range by Katarina Roccella for Art Gallery Fabrics. For stockists, visit www.hantex.co.uk/agf



BIRD SONG PINK



BERRIES BLUE



WOODLAND CRITTERS NAVY



FOREST FRIENDS PINK



"Sweet Autumn Day reminds me of taking long walks with my family and friends collecting leaves and little treasures as we explored the world around us. I wanted to incorporate the memories of these happy times."

Sarah Betz, Cloud9 Fabrics

love that FABRIC

WE PICK THE BEST NEW
PATCHWORK COLLECTIONS

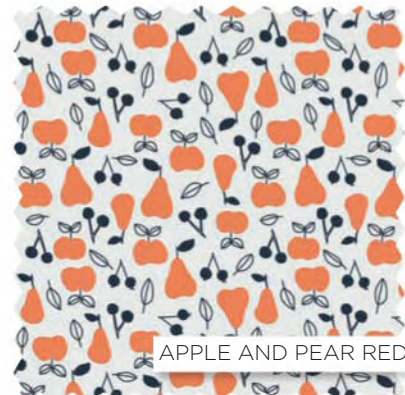
As we start to wave goodbye to warmer weather, we can look forward to crisp autumnal days. This month's collections pay homage to the last of brighter shades with Jeni Baker's Curiosities range for Art Gallery Fabrics, and get us ready for cooler months with Cloud9 Fabric's Sweet Autumn Day. Both feature animal prints and whimsical florals that are perfect for combining in quilts and home makes.



CLOUDY DAYS BLUE



WHIMSICAL WOODS GRAY

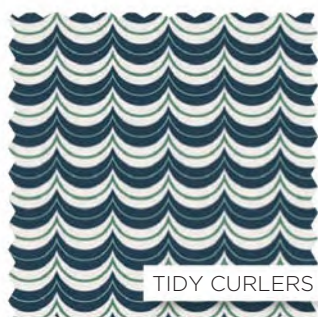


APPLE AND PEAR RED

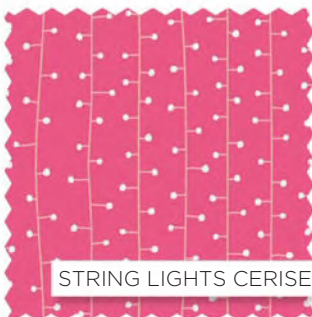
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CURIOUS BUNNIES CALM



"Curiosities was inspired by the many small wonders in life. I added a vintage twist that transports you to a whimsical garden. This collection is dedicated to my bunny George, who is ever curious!"

Jeni Baker, Art Gallery Fabrics

THIS MONTH'S PANTONE COLOURS

September's shades are rich and deep.



DEEP BLUE 19-3847 TCX



RUSSET ORANGE 16-1255 TPX



BISCAY GREEN 15-5718 TCX

Essentials

- Spotted oilcloth, 25cm x 50cm
- Floral oilcloth, 25cm x 80cm
- Sewable clear vinyl, 15cm x 25cm
- Zip, 19cm
- Spotted cotton, 25cm
- Large buttons, two

Dimensions

25cm x 50cm

make a cosmetic case

1 Trim spotted oilcloth to 25cm x 50cm. Cut a piece from floral oilcloth, 25cm x 50cm and place to one side. Cut two more pieces from floral oilcloth, one 16cm x 25cm and one 6cm x 25cm. Use the leftover floral print to cut two 4cm x 8cm rectangles and a 4cm x 25cm strip.

2 Place a zip right side up and lay the two small rectangles face down on top at either end. Stitch across, 1cm from the ends of the zip. Fold back to create tabs at either end of the zip.

3 Lay the zip right side up, place the 16cm x 25cm rectangle of floral oilcloth face down over it, lining up the two bottom edges and centring along the length of the zip and tabs. Use a zipper foot to sew the oilcloth to the zip. Fold it back and topstitch the seam, 2mm from the fold.

4 Repeat for the 6cm wide strip of oilcloth on the other side of the zip. Trim the tabs at either end of the zip in line with the larger panels. Fold the pocket right sides together diagonally at one corner so the adjacent sides line up. Stitch across the fold, 2cm from the point. Repeat for the remaining corners to create a shallow tray. Turn out and use a turning tool to push out the darts.

5 Place the pocket right side up on the bottom of the spotted oilcloth strip. Sew the bottom of the pocket to the strip with a 3mm wide zig zag stitch on the edge of the fabric. Sew the sides to the strip in the same way before sewing along the top edge.

6 Take the 4cm x 25cm strip of floral oilcloth and stitch right sides together to the top edge of 15cm x 25cm of clear vinyl. Fold the oilcloth over the edge, lining up the raw edge with the seam on the other side and topstitch in place.

7 Position the vinyl 2cm above the pocket. Stitch the sides to the edges of the spotted oilcloth with a 3mm zig zag stitch as before. Make a pleat at either side of the vinyl along the bottom edge and zig zag in place.

8 Cut two 2cm x 25cm strips of spotted cotton. Place face down over the seams in the middle of the organiser to cover them, lining up the raw edge with the zig zag. Sew down, 5mm from the edge. Fold up over the seam, fold under 5mm on the opposite raw edge and topstitch down to neatly cover all stitching.

9 To make ribbon ties, cut two strips of spotted cotton 2cm x 22cm. Turn in 5mm

on each short edge, and 5mm on each long edge. Fold in half lengthways, right sides out and topstitch 1mm from the edges. Repeat with two more pieces, 2cm x 15cm. Set these aside.

10 Take the large piece of floral oilcloth and mark a centre point, 3cm from one end and 8cm from the other. Hand stitch the longer pieces of piping to these points, covering with ends with a large button.

11 Fold the two shorter pieces into loops and tack to the top of the spotted oilcloth,

matching up the raw edges so the loops lay on the fabric. Pair up the two large panels of oilcloth wrong sides together with the higher button at the top of the organiser and tack together around the edges.

12 Cut more 2cm wide strips of spotted cotton and use these to bind the edges of the organiser, covering all the stitching and tacking as you do so. Sew the top and bottom bindings first. Fold in the raw ends of the side strips before sewing in place. Topstitch on the floral side.

Pretty useful cosmetics organiser

Keep your toiletries tidy with a nifty travel hanger

Corinne Bradd's designer holdall is just the thing for keeping everything safely stored when at home or away! Fully washable, lightweight oilcloth can be simple to sew, but always remember to pin in the seam allowance or use masking tape, to avoid holes in your fabric.





Sew reader
Carolyn says...

*"Invest in a Teflon
foot when sewing
oilcloth on your
machine - it prevents
any sticking fabric"*

Carolyn Eales

Hang time!

Fold up the loops at the
top of the organiser, in
order to hang it up.

*the
haberdashery*



Floral print

We used the pretty
floral Milly Duck Egg
matt oilcloth for our
main fabric. Priced
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Go dotty

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the floral print. Priced
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Paint your own tropical cushions

Add an exotic flourish to
your living space

These popping cushions by Jill Alblas take just a few hours to make, and the spray paint technique is quick, simple and spot on for a novice artist. So if you're pushed for time, but want to personalise your space, these stencilled designs are ideal for a nifty update.





Care advice

Ensure the fabric contains no more than 20% synthetic fibres. Once fixed, the cover can be washed at 40°C.

Essentials

- Fabric, white or cream
- Fabric spray paints, turquoise, magenta, yellow
- Silhouette stencils
- Stencil fixative
- Square cushion pads, 35cm
- Pinking scissors

Dimensions

35cm square

stencil a cushion

1 Cut a 37cm square from white cotton for the cushion front and 37cm x 46cm for the back. Wash then press flat. Cover your work surface with paper and place the fabric square on top, ensuring it is smooth. Spray a stencil with a light covering of fixative and press it in the centre of the fabric.

2 Shake a bottle of magenta fabric paint and holding the bottle about 20cm from the fabric, spray across the stencil. Repeat with turquoise and yellow so you've covered the

stencil and overlapped the colours in places. Dab the stencil with kitchen paper or tissues to absorb the excess paint then remove.

3 For the flamingo design, spray the fabric for the back with magenta, turquoise and yellow, and allow the colours to overlap. For the floral design, fix the stencil near the top of the fabric, spray with paints and dab with tissue as before then move further down and repeat.

4 Leave the pieces to dry for a couple of hours, then fix the colours by placing a clean cloth on top and ironing for about three minutes on the cotton setting. Cut the larger piece of fabric in half. Fold and press 1cm along one of the long sides then fold over again and press and stitch to make a neat hem. Repeat on the other half.

5 Place the fabric square for the front of the cushion painted side up on your work surface. Position the hemmed fabric pieces right side down, overlapping each other in the middle.

6 Measure then pin and tack together to make a 35cm square. Sew around all four edges, then remove the tacking thread. Use pinking scissors to trim the excess fabric around the stitching. Turn out, press and insert a cushion pad.

the haberdashery



We used Silhouette stencils, stencil fixative and Fashion Spray by Marabu. Distributed by www.westdesignproducts.co.uk. Call **01303 297888** for stockists.

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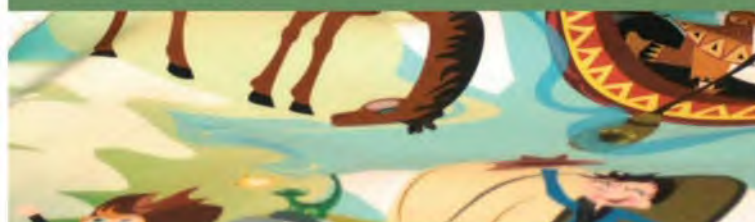
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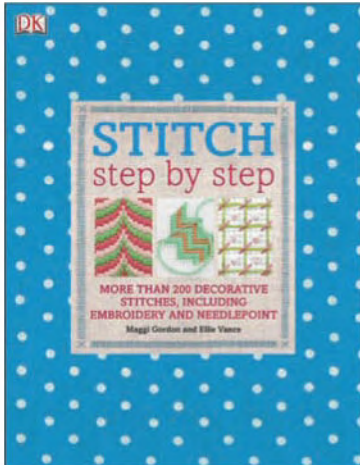


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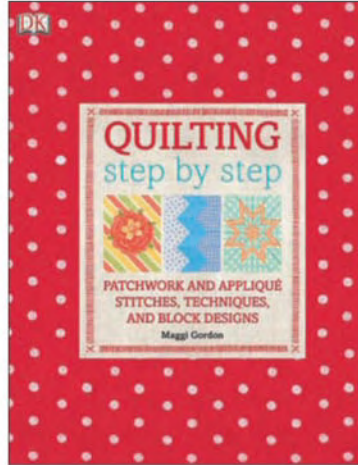
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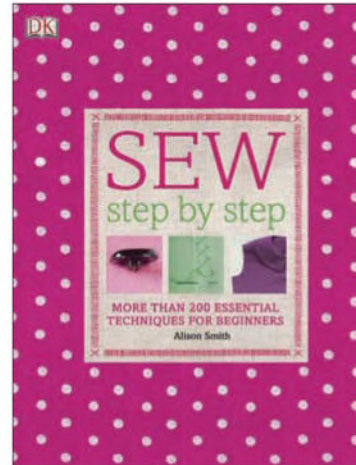
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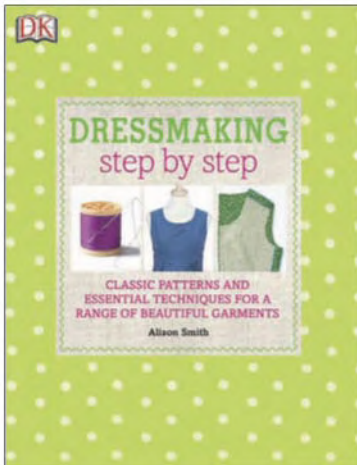
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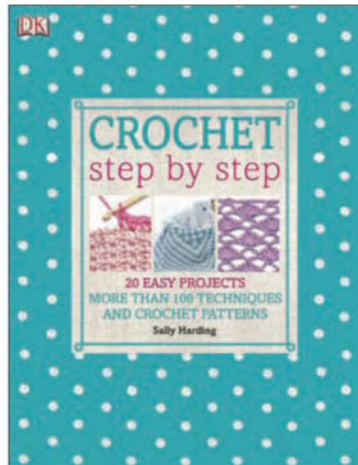
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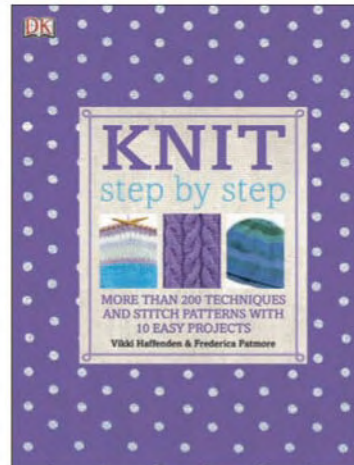
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Walter the whale

A contrasting tummy
allows you to make this sea
creature bold and beautiful



This friendly whale by Cheryl Owen is the perfect companion and proves a great way to recycle old jeans. Choose a bright contrast fabric for the belly and underside of the fins and tail. You'll be riding the waves in no time, so why not have a go at making Walter a friend?



Firmly does it!

Be sure to use firm interfacing on the fins and tail for extra support.

Essentials

- Denim fabric
- Patterned cotton
- Lightweight wadding
- Fusible interfacing
- Toy stuffing
- Black embroidery thread
- Coordinating thread
- Crewel embroidery needle

Dimensions

25cm x 35cm

stitch a whale

1 Go to www.sewmag.co.uk to download and print the templates. Cut out one pair of bodies, one pair of fins plus one tail on the fold from denim and one pair of fins and one tail on the fold from interfacing. Cut one pair of tummies, one pair of fins and one tail from patterned cotton, plus another pair of tummies from wadding.

2 Use the template to draw eyes on the right side of the bodies with a pencil. Embroider in satin stitch using black embroidery thread and a crewel needle. With right sides facing, pin the bodies together and stitch the centre back seam from points A to B. Snip the curves and press the seam open.

3 Press interfacing to the wrong side of the denim fins. Pin each denim fin to a patterned one and stitch the outer edges, leaving the notched ones open. Snip the curves, turn right side out and press. Pin and tack the fins to the body with the denim sides facing, matching dots C and D.

4 Mark the broken lines on the right side of the tummies with a pencil. Pin and tack the tummies right side up on wadding. Use white sewing thread to stitch along the drawn lines to quilt the tummy. Place the centre front edges together, right sides facing and pin either side of the notches. Sew the centre front seam A to B, leaving a gap. Snip the curves and press the seam open.

5 Pin the body and tummy together, and stitch around the outer edge starting from point A. Snip the curves and turn the whale right side out. Stuff evenly with toy filling and slipstitch the gap closed.

6 Press interfacing to the wrong side of the denim tail. Pin the tails together and stitch the outer edge, leaving a gap to turn through. Carefully clip the seam allowance to the inner corner, snip the edges and turn right side out.

7 Press the tail and slipstitch the gap closed. With the denim tail facing up, pin the end of the whale to the centre of the tail, overlapping by 2.5cm. With a double length of thread, hand stitch the tail in place using small, discreet stitches.

the haberdashery



Nimbus Teal

We used Nimbus Teal from the First Light range from Cloud9 Fabrics. See www.hantex.co.uk/cloud9 for stockists.



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Super easy **rag doll**

Use fabrics from your stash to make
Square Peg and friends

Have some fun making this simple rag doll for your little one. Designed by Jane Bull, she's stitched from rectangles of fabric, just like a mini cushion with arms and legs, so couldn't be easier to sew as there are no curves. It's a great project for using up pieces from your stash. Why not enlarge the templates and create a whole family of peg dolls in differing sizes? They can have their very own look by simply changing the fabric colour and design of their clothes.





make a mini peg doll

Essentials

- Cream linen
- Printed cotton
- Stripe cotton
- Plain cotton
- Denim
- Toy stuffing
- Ribbon
- Permanent pens

Dimensions

14cm x 39.5cm

1 Trace the templates from page 100 or download them from www.sewmag.co.uk and print. Pin the paper pieces to fabric and cut two sets of each shape. Open up all the folded pieces and press. Pin a foot to a leg, right sides together, and stitch using a 1.2cm seam allowance. Repeat for a hand and arm, then a head and top. Sew a skirt to the other side of the top. Repeat for the remaining pieces. Press all the seams open [1].

2 Fold one leg piece in half lengthways and pin. Using a 7mm seam allowance, stitch down the long edge and the end of the foot, leaving the top open. Clip the corners and turn out. Repeat for the other leg, then for both arms. Fill all the limbs with toy stuffing.

3 Fold and press under a 1.2cm turning at the top of both head pieces. Place the body section right side up with the head at the top. Align the top

raw edge of the legs with the bottom of the body piece and pin and tack. Lay the other body section right side down on top of the legs. Pin, tack, then stitch together at the bottom edge, using a 1.2cm seam allowance [2].

4 Open up the fabric and lay flat. Position the arms either side of the body, aligning the raw edges as before. Pin and tack [3]. Place the body fabric together again and pin and tack the side edges together [4].

5 Stitch down both sides using a 1.2cm seam allowance, taking care not to catch the rest of the limbs. Turn out through the top of the head. Fill the body with toy stuffing, then pin the top folded edges together. Sew the opening closed with slip stitch [5].

6 To make the face, draw eyes and a mouth directly onto the fabric with permanent felt pen [6]. Use chalk or pencil to mark an outline first if desired. Sew a ribbon as a bow on the doll's head and a trim around the waist.

the haberdashery



Blossom print

This Asia Flower dobby fabric by Kokka is pretty in pink and has a lovely tactile texture. Priced £11.60 per metre, www.modes4u.com



get the book

For more simple projects for beginners, take a look at *My Sewing Machine* by Jane Bull (£12.99, DK), www.dk.com

The face is drawn on with permanent marker, but you could stitch it using embroidery thread and back stitch.



Think big!

Make a big dolly by enlarging the templates by 200% and using a 30cm x 40cm cushion pad for the body.

✓ just tick the boxes!

To enter our giveaways, just tick the box that corresponds with the prizes you want to win and send your entry to us no later than 11.09.2015. Mark your envelope: **Sew September Giveaways**, PO Box 443, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP2 8WG.

- ☐ PATTERNS ☐ DUCK & DUFFEL
☐ DAYLIGHT ☐ HANTEX ☐ BROTHER
☐ FISKARS ☐ MARGO SELBY ☐ VILENE

What made you buy this month's Sew?

- ☐ FREE New Look 6035 multi pattern pack
☐ I subscribe
☐ Other

What's your favourite project this issue?

- ☐ Dress to tunic rework ☐ Painter's smock
☐ Walter the whale ☐ Quilted clutch bag
☐ Other

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other.....

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

Daytime phone.....

Mobile.....

Email.....

Date of birth.....

Only one entry per household please.

This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person. The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet. Entries must be on the coupon provided. It cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. CLOSING DATE 11.09.2015 Winners will be notified after the cover dated month, a list of winners will be available in writing on request from Rachel Tudor, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY. *Just pay £3.99 postage.

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Tilly and the Buttons pattern range

Get stitching a whole new wardrobe with the entire range of patterns from Tilly and the Buttons. One lucky winner will get eight sewing patterns, including the brand new Bettine dress and Fifi pyjama set! With easy to follow steps and in a range of sizes, you will have plenty of new outfits in no time. Visit, www.tillyandthebuttons.com to view the full selection. To enter, tick the 'PATTERNS' box.



Daylight lamps

Three lucky winners will get one of these fabulous portable desk lamps. Lightweight and designed to fold neatly away for easy transport, they will give you the ultimate spread of light across the whole of your work area with an ingenious easy-twist action. Perfect for all that late night sewing! To enter, tick the 'DAYLIGHT' box. Order online or for details of your nearest stockist, visit www.daylightcompany.com or call 0208 964 1200.



Enter now for your chance to win these amazing prizes!



Now you can make your own beautiful lampshade using Duck & Duffel fabrics. One winner will receive this simple kit, with full instructions, that comes with a 20cm frame to make a ceiling or table lamp. Choose from a range of bespoke fabrics to cover your shade, and create something unique for your home. Visit, www.duckandduffel.co.uk for more products. To enter, tick the 'DUCK & DUFFEL' box.

HANTEX WOOL FELT BUNDLE

Established for over 20 years, Hantex is a UK based distributor of a huge range of products for sewing and fabric crafts. Available in the very latest colours and on-trend shades, we have three branded wool felt bundles to give away. Use them to create beautiful makes and enhance your projects. To enter, tick the 'HANTEX' box. Visit, www.hantex.co.uk to find your local stockists.



Brother XR37NT sewing machine

This Brother sewing machine features a wide range of stitches, making it ideal for repairs, dressmaking and home furnishing projects. It's designed to make sewing quick and easy, including an automatic needle threader and quick set bobbin system. It also boasts 37 built-in stitches, a hard case and comes with a three year warranty. It's fantastic value for money and is sure to help you create beautiful things! To enter tick **'BROTHER'** for more information, visit www.brothersewing.co.uk

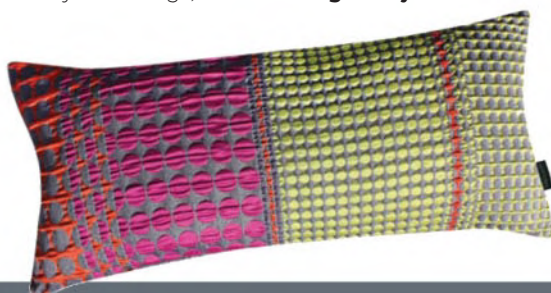
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£209



more than
£1,200
worth of prizes!

Margo Selby cushion set

Margo Selby is a woven textile design company that produces exceptional quality fabrics, rugs and accessories which blend effortlessly with both contemporary and classic interiors. We have a gorgeous cushion set for one lucky winner that is sure to bring elegance to any room in the house. To enter, tick the **'MARGO SELBY'** box. See all of their lovely furnishings, at www.margoselby.com



4
to win!

Fiskars scissor sets

Scissor handles can be tricky if you have arthritis, joint pain or just have large hands. Fiskars has a solution with the new Easy Action scissors. They have a spring action that gently opens the blade after each cut to reduce hand strain. We have four sets of Easy Action Razor Edge Softgrip Scissors and Easy Action Micro-Tip Scissors to give away. Fiskars products are available in John Lewis, Hobbycraft, The Range and independent craft shops around the UK. Visit www.fiskars.co.uk for more information. To enter, tick the **'FISKARS'** box.



Vilene bundles

Three winners will receive a bundle of products, including Vilene lightweight interfacing, stretch interfacing and Bondaweb. These are the perfect choice for adding structure and stability to all your projects! To enter, tick the **'VILENE'** box. Make sure to visit Vilene's new website www.vlieseline.com, a vital source of information and inspiration for everyone with a passion for sewing and crafting. For stockists, email crafts@stockistenquiries.co.uk or call 01453 883581.

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- Autumn makes & gifts
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When Sew met Patrick!
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October issue on sale 28th August

SEW *Need to know*



Wendy's wisdom

How to use metallic threads

Metallic threads are ideal for embellishing, customising and adding stylish design details to your projects. They can be sewn on a regular machine and combined with pretty decorative stitches.

1 Metallic threads have metal in them, hence the name. This can wear away tiny grooves in the eye of the machine needle, which then snags the thread causing it to shred or break. Metallic needles have a larger eye which is coated to prevent this happening. They are available in different sizes to suit various fabric weights.

2 If you don't have a metallic needle, try an embroidery or topstitch one and keep it for metallic thread only. These also have

larger eyes to help the thread slip through more easily. Use additional needles for the different types of metallic thread as they will all effect the eye of the needle differently.

3 Slow your stitching speed down. Metallic threads are more delicate and tend to break easily at very fast speeds, particularly when sewing decorative stitches. Reduce the speed dial on your machine or press more lightly on the foot pedal. If you have difficulty in controlling the speed with the foot pedal, turn it over and press the underside – it helps with the control!

4 Use a basic colour thread in the bobbin such as white for light fabrics and grey for dark ones. If the bobbin thread comes to the top of the work when sewing decorative stitches, try using a reel of Madeira Bobbinfil, which is a lighter, finer thread.

5 It is often better if the thread is held on an upright spindle, rather than the horizontal one. If your second spindle (usually inserted for twin needle stitching) is vertical, use this instead. Otherwise, you can put the thread in a cup behind the machine and feed it up from there.



6 Sewing with metallic thread is one of the few times when it may be necessary to adjust the tension on your sewing machine. Reduce the upper tension (lower number) if it becomes necessary. Remember to always try out the stitching on a sample of fabric first.

“Always use a metallic needle with metallic threads”

Machine foot BEADING FOOT



This foot is a useful tool for adding surface detail and decorative design to a plain garment or cushion cover. It has a deep groove on the underside through which the string of beads is fed as you stitch over it. You can also feed fine piping cord, braids and crochet cottons through the channel and stitch over them to create 3-D surface detail.

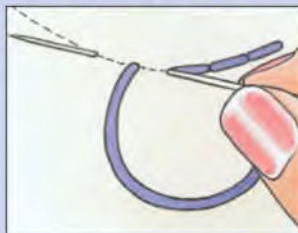
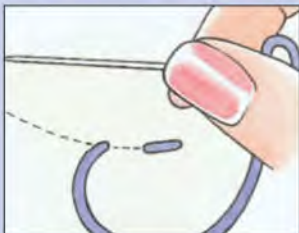
WHICH STITCH?

The best stitch to use with the beading foot is a simple zig zag stitch which goes over the beads, and stitches either side, anchoring them in place. Check the width will go from side to side over the beads and increase or decrease it (using the stitch width button) so that the stitching is just on either side of the beading. Increase the length to three or four so that the stitching is spaced out and slips between the beading. If necessary, having sewn the embellishments in place, you can roll the beads to encourage the stitching to slip in between them.

Essential stitches

Use these stitches in everyday hand sewing

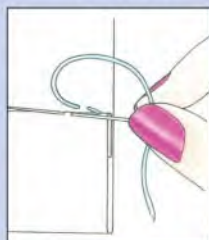
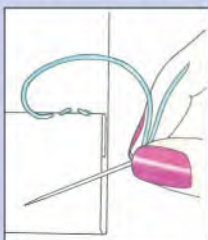
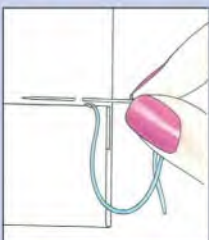
BACK STITCH Strong hand stitches with a neat finish



1 Secure the thread on the wrong side of the fabric and bring the needle through to the surface to start the first stitch. Move a stitch length backwards along the sewing line, take the needle back through the fabric, then bring it to the surface at the end position of this stitch.

2 Moving back along the stitching line, take the needle down through the same hole as the previous thread. Bring it to the surface for the end position of the stitch. Repeat along the sewing line to create even stitches.

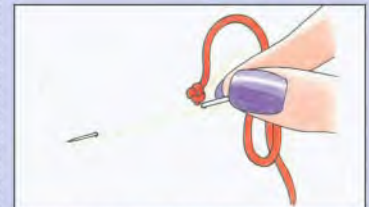
SLIP STITCH Stitches used for hemming or sewing up projects



1 Working on the fold in the fabric, secure the thread with a double stitch.

2 Pick up two threads of the fabric with the needle tip, then slip the needle through the fold of the hem. Bring the needle out 5mm along, then pick up two more threads of fabric before returning through the fold of the hem.

3 Pull the thread lightly as you work to tighten the stitches, being careful not to distort the fabric which makes the stitches visible.



FRENCH KNOTS

Knotted stitches on the fabric's surface

1 Bring the thread to the surface at the position for the knot. Wrap the thread around the needle tip twice and take it back through the fabric where it came up.

2 Ease the knot onto the surface of the fabric, holding it steady while pulling the needle through to the wrong side. Stitch to secure or return to the surface for the next French knot.

ESSENTIAL INFO AND ADVICE FOR SUCCESSFUL STITCHING

Measure up

The key to successful fitting is taking accurate body measurements and comparing them to those on the pattern envelope in order to make appropriate alterations.

STEPS TO SUCCESS

- Measure yourself in your underwear, preferably in the bra you will be wearing with your garment.
- Use a new tape measure as they can distort out of shape over time.
- Ask a friend to help you, especially with tricky measurements such as your back-neck to waist and height.
- Be honest with your measurements and remember pattern sizes are totally different to ready-to-wear high street sizes.
- Use your measurements to help you adjust the pattern to fit your shape, not forgetting to take the required ease into account.

My measurements

Bust

Waist

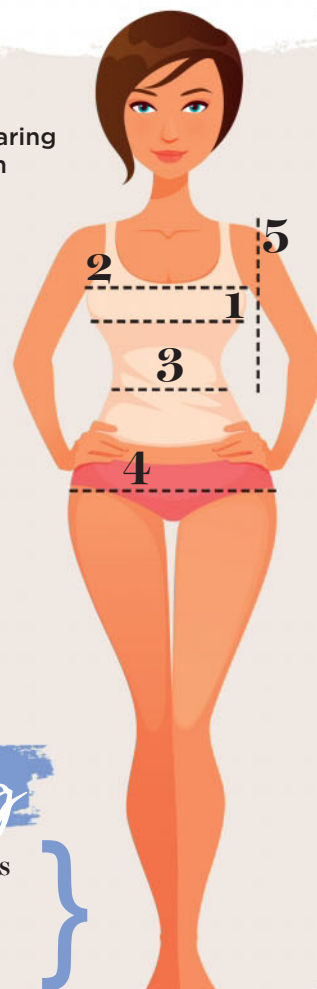
Hip

Back-neck to waist length

STITCH DICTIONARY

Stay stitching

A row of stitches which helps stop curved edges such as necklines from stretching out of shape.



1 Bust

Around the fullest part of the bust.

2 High bust

Around the chest, above the bust and under the arms.

3 Waist

Around the smallest part of your waist.

4 Hip

Around the fullest part of your hips.

5 Back-neck to waist length

From the base of the neck to the natural waistline.

6 Height

Measure standing against a wall.

Essential equipment

Stock your sewing box with these useful tools

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Dressmaking shears | ☐ Rotary cutter |
| ☐ Embroidery scissors | ☐ Ruler |
| ☐ Iron | ☐ Safety pins |
| ☐ Needles | ☐ Seam ripper |
| ☐ Pinking shears | ☐ Sewing machine |
| ☐ Pins | ☐ Tailor's chalk |
| ☐ Removable ink pen | ☐ Tape measure |

Toy safety

- If making for a small child, omit any small embellishments and embroider details such as the face instead.
- Use hypo-allergenic toy stuffing and fabrics that are chemical-free or organic materials.
- Ensure you use strong stitching to prevent filling materials escaping.
- Use textiles which can be machine washed to get rid of dirt and bacteria.



Speciality cuts

Know these common fabric quantities

Quantity	Description
Charm pack	5" (12.7cm) squares, usually containing one of every print from a collection
Jelly Roll	2.5" x 42" (6.4cm x 106.7cm) strips, trademark of Moda, but similar products are available
Layer cake	10" (25.4cm) squares, typically including 42 pieces of fabric
Fat eighth	An eighth of a metre cut into a rectangle
Fat quarter	A quarter of a metre cut into a rectangle
Long quarter	A quarter of a metre cut by the full width of fabric



To download more templates,
visit www.sewmag.co.uk

How to download templates

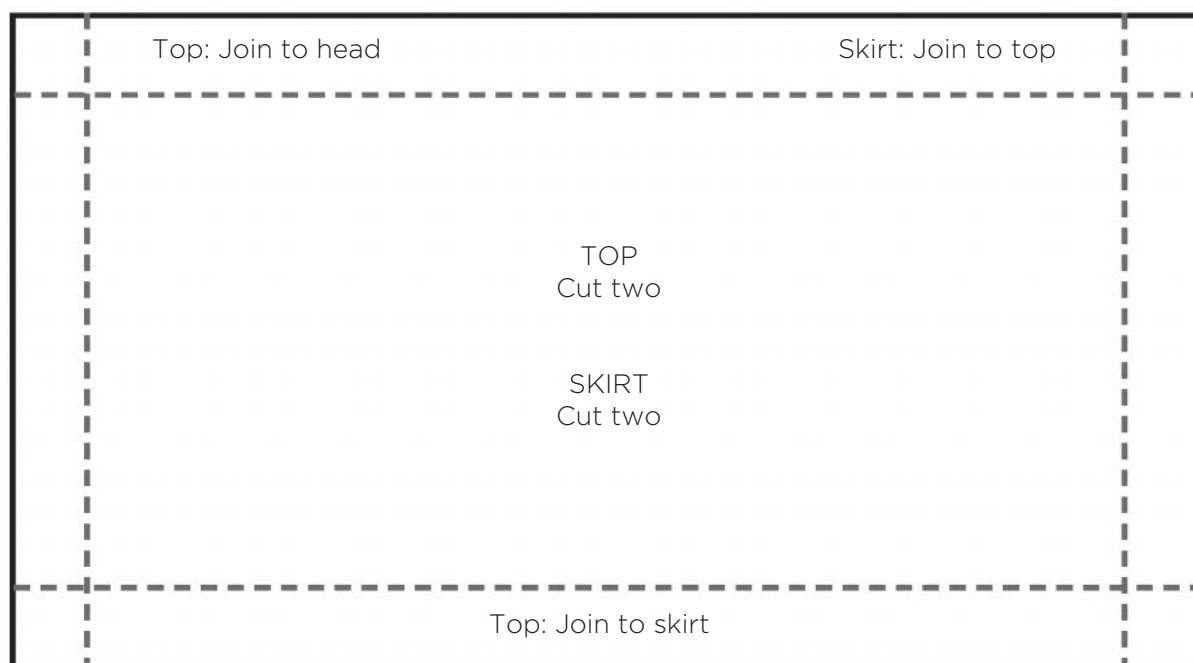
1 To download actual-size templates for this issue's projects, visit www.sewmag.co.uk then click on the **Templates** tab to view our archive of templates.

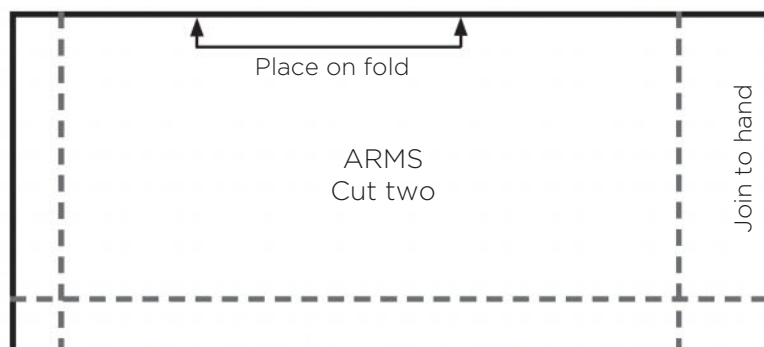
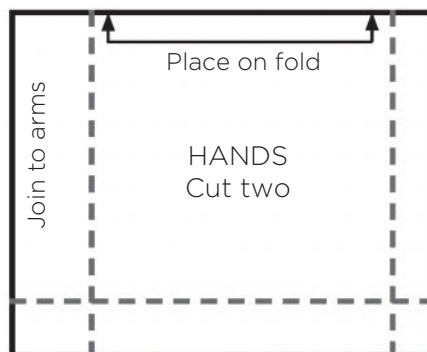
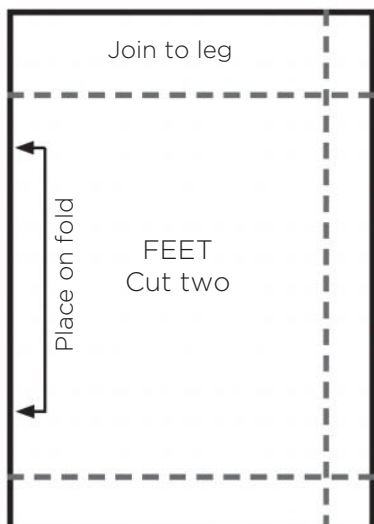
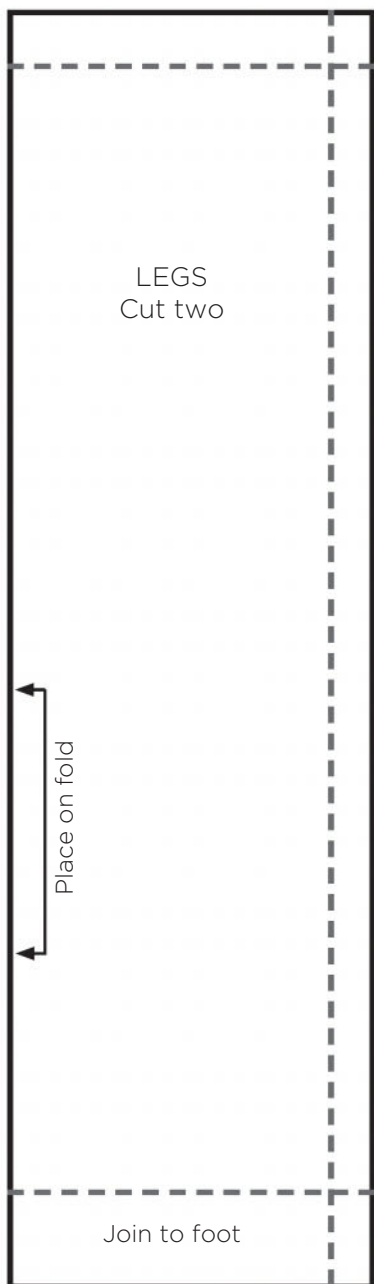
2 Select the September issue's templates, log in, then click the Download Template tab. The pattern folder will automatically

transfer onto your computer.

Follow the instructions to print all or selected templates.

3 If you haven't already registered, you'll need to create a log-in for our website to allow you exclusive access to all of our free downloads and templates.







READING ROOM

*Our favourite new sewing books,
plus what's on the Sew blog*



meet the author



5 minutes with... Wendy Gardiner

Containing 15 fresh, fun fat quarter projects, from doorstops and drawstring bags to tablemats, aprons and cushions, stitching pro Wendy's latest title is ideal for sewers of all abilities. It starts with a comprehensive techniques section, then leads onto the exciting projects, which feature inspiring photography, instructive illustrations and heaps of handy advice. We caught up with Wendy to chat about the title, and why she simply adores fat quarters!

What do you love about fat quarters?

I love the fact that you can get fabulous fabrics in affordable quantities, often colour and pattern co-ordinated beautifully, making the decision of what to put together so much easier!



What's the most surprising thing you can make from a few fat quarters? Clothing! You can make sleeveless shell tops, simple skirts, even trousers – just piece some together to create a unique garment.

The book promotes using up your leftovers, what's your top recycling savvy tip for readers?

Never throw away fabric remnants! You can always cut them into strips, then stitch and flip, just like my pillow with piping or draught excluder.



*Fun with Fat Quarters by Wendy Gardiner
(£10.99, Search Press).*

What's your favourite make from the book?

That is difficult as I loved doing them all! I think the party clutch with the 'bubble' textured front is probably my favourite. Although, I do also love the disappearing nine-patch technique used for the bag. It is so easy and great for non-patchworkers.

Sew loves...

All Points Patchwork

This is the book you need for everything English paper piecing, with gorgeous projects to accompany the how-to sections. It will ensure you have perfectly matched points every time. This complete course in the craft takes you far beyond traditional hexagons with step-by-step photos showing you how to connect triangles, octagons, diamonds, jewels, triangles, tumblers, pentagons, and curved shapes. And it provides lots of novel ideas for incorporating the designs into anything from home decor to clothing!

All Points Patchwork, by Diane Gilleland
(£14.99, Storey Publishing).



on the Sew blog

www.sewmag.co.uk/blog

Love your local fabric shop? Then show them some love this Sew Saturday, on 17th October! With top names such as May Martin as ambassador, it's a celebration of the independent fabric store and haberdasher. There's set to be a wide range of special events happening across the country, including star appearances from leading personalities in the industry, plus workshops. Keep up to date with the latest goings on by checking the Sew blog regularly for updates!



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LAURA LEES

After working in the fashion industry, this talented embroiderer discovered her true passions lay in furniture design

I come from a very creative family. Both my parents were art teachers as well as artists. My childhood was full of drawing, painting, brass rubbings, sewing, the lot! Any craft you can name, we did it. But I always found I liked sewing pictures best. My sisters made loads of clothes for our dolls, but the ones I made were rubbish, in fact to this day I am still bad at dressmaking. I am far more confident with anything to do with embroidery.

My fashion label style was illustrative, edgy yet feminine with a helping of humour thrown in for good measure. Now I design fabrics for furniture, it's more graphic, colourful and geometric, and I draw a lot of inspiration from modernist architecture. I got tired of the treadmill of the fashion industry. The demands were relentless, and didn't allow me the creative freedom to do the kind of work I truly wanted. I knew I wasn't completely passionate about it. The changes in economic climate and becoming a parent allowed me to follow my true passion. I realised I love furniture more than I love clothes!

Now I find inspiration everywhere. The city scape gives me an endless supply of imagery. Often song lyrics or a piece of music resonate with me and before I know it, an idea comes from something playing on my iPod. My workspace is organised chaos. It's vibrant, noisy and peaceful all at once. I believe in order and try to follow the expression 'a place for everything and everything in its place.' Although it doesn't look it, I promise you I know where everything is!

I mainly stick to my own creative ideas but as you research you are, of course, aware of fashion trends, new fabrics and technical skills and equipment that inform your views.

"THERE ARE NO RIGHTS OR WRONGS, EVERY MISTAKE TAKES YOU IN A NEW CREATIVE DIRECTION"

A lot of my pieces are bespoke, one-off designs which makes them special for both myself and my clients. The red chair is my favourite piece so far, it's designed from magazine spines which made a very abstract pattern. It was such a challenge to embroider and assemble. As the fabric I had created was so stiff, it was like trying to work with a carpet instead. Luckily I work closely with my upholsterer Rachel, so I was able to sew extra panels and make the cuts together, otherwise it could have been a very different outcome. It was so satisfying to complete. Here's a handy tip for furniture, work with a good, traditional upholsterer!

The best thing about what I do is the fact that I love doing it. Every day holds inspiration and joy, even when I have a more mundane task to complete, I still enjoy working in my studio. I believe everyone should be able

to sew, it's a great life skill. You can go from simply stitching in a straight line, to being able to make yourself a new wardrobe or piece of functional furniture. I teach weekly classes at my studio and I really enjoy them. It's so rewarding to see people's reaction to an easily learned skill and the genuinely brilliant results in such a short space of time. The students really surprise themselves. My philosophy is that there are no rights or wrongs, and every mistake takes you in a new direction. I truly believe in taking people out of their comfort zone so they are accustomed to taking creative leaps when they continue with their sewing at home.

There are so many exciting things to look forward to in the future; exhibitions, tapestry, teaching, furniture, embroidered room sets and so much more. I will keep you posted!



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